

THE Science Museum at South Kensington, London, has now a new attraction in the form of an automatic guide. This is actually a specially designed electric gramophone. The instrument, which has been installed on the top floor of the main building, gives directions where to find particular exhibits and can also give brief lectures, six to seven minutes in length. It is set in operation by pressing a button.

A TENDENCY to introduce unsavoury political items into the Dutch broadcasts has led to the issue of unusually severe regulations by the Government. The Wireless Control Commission, which has exercised an indulgent authority over all broadcasting in Holland, is now required to stiffen its attitude to the extent of forbidding all criticism of the Government. Talks manuscripts must undergo a rigid censorship, and the law now provides a scale of punishments for any violation of this principle. In extreme cases the power supply may be cut off without notice.

NEW YORK reports the invention by Dr. S. N. Baruch of a device for radio transmission which may revolutionise broadcasting; it being claimed that it creates no side-bands and will, therefore, permit more stations to occupy the ether without interference.

Dr. Baruch has applied to the Federal Radio Commission for authority to test his invention on a working scale. He claims also that his system will give practical impetus to the development of television. It will be



interesting to learn whether Dr. Baruch's invention is more practicable than Dr. Robinson's "Stenode Radiostat," the revolutionary receiver which has been acclaimed by leading radio authorities as the solution of the serious problem of station overcrowding.

EMERGING from the laboratory after many years of development, the visual radio range beacon for the guidance of aeroplanes along given courses by means of visual instrument readings rather than aural signals received through earphones will shortly be placed in daily service in America. The airway selected for the inauguration of the service is the Kansas City-Los Angeles section of the trans-continental air route. The method to be used makes use of direct radio beams along the route on which the planes are required to travel. Any divergence from the straight course is visually indicated by means of a pair of vibrating reeds which show at a glance whether the error is to the right or the left.

A SERIES of programme exchanges has been arranged between Japan and the United States. The second, which took place recently, was very successful. The United States Ambassador in Japan was heard in America, and the Japanese representative in U.S.A. spoke to his compatriots in Japan. The Tokio studio programme lasted 20 minutes, and was followed by 10 minutes of music, including the Japanese anthem. The American National Anthem was played for Japan's benefit, and special native music was rendered by a specially-engaged Japanese band.

A FRENCH musical authority, M. Paul Dermée, says it is absurd to encourage the composition of music especially intended for broadcasting. He contends that for composers to concentrate on the middle register, leaving out low notes and high notes, which do not broadcast so well, would be as harmful as to have given the gramophone a diet of music entirely nasal in its early days. He believes that the engineers must study the composers, and not the composers the engineers.

THREE radio engineers, attached to the American station WGY, have recently been given roving commissions. They carry between them a microphone and amplifying equipment, and, on discovering anything worth broadcasting they connect up to the nearest telephone wire and relay it to the station. WGY is thus able to broadcast a never-ending series of novel and interesting transmissions.

IT is reported that plans are being made for the Marchese Marconi to unveil in the autumn by means of a radio signal from his yacht in mid-Atlantic a huge statue of Christ which is in course of erection on the Corcovado Mountain overlooking Rio de Janeiro. This statue, the largest image of its kind ever made, stands 150 feet high; it is composed of concrete covered with blue tiling, and cost over £34,000. A unique event and a great honour to radio and Marconi.

IN an analysis made of certain types of programmes, the Federal Radio Commission of America early this year obtained responses from 522 out of a total of 605 licensed stations, or an 86 per cent. return. It was found that 10 per cent. of all the time "on the air" was devoted to educational programmes; 2 per cent. to data and announcements provided by the Federal Government; 1 per cent. to data provided by city, county, and State; 2½ per cent. speeches and general character; 17 per cent. to classical music; and 1½ per cent. to appeals for aid, philanthropic work, etc., such as the Red Cross "drive." Thirty-four per cent. of the total broadcasting time was used in the above manner, which left 66 per cent. for jazz, jokes, and advertising.

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