

NO false fancies about the possibilities of television are entertained by the Italian broadcasting authorities. We learn that, in an official letter sent to a number of Italian listeners who were clamouring for the establishment of a "Television Theatre," it is declared that, having regard to the present state of television, such a theatre would only bring discredit to the art and serve no useful purpose. The authorities give the assurance, however, that television developments are being closely watched, and that an experimental television station may soon be erected in Turin.



MR. O. E. CALDWELL has been telling the American public a little more about the future of radio. On the last occasion the ex-member of the Federal Radio Commission wrote of the benign influence of the loud-speaker in the chicken-coop; this time, in the September Journal of American Military Engineers, he foretells the inevitable extinction of the regimental brass band. In future, it appears, the troops will march to victory behind a band wagon fitted with thermionic "boobs" and a "phonograph" amplifier. This should soon put an end to war.

AMERICAN genius for choosing the right word is shown in the description of the proposed broadcast relay station at Washington. It is called a "booster." It is believed that this 250-watt station may be the forerunner of a chain of "boosters," leading to single wavelength working all over the United States. A new battle is breaking out between America's two rival broadcasting chains—the National Broadcasting Company and the Columbia system—each of which is making frantic efforts to buy up stations whose owners are unable to make them paying propositions.

FOR the purpose of making its programmes more interesting, the broadcasting station at Palermo, Italy, recently initiated a music-guessing competition for its listeners. Every Friday, at 9 p.m., three gramophone records are broadcast without any announcement whatever as to the identity of the music and the composer. Those sending in correct solutions draw lots for the three records offered as prizes.

THE Columbia broadcasting system recently inaugurated a new plan of religious broadcasting. Formerly transmissions of this kind were paid for, but the commercial basis will now be removed, and time will be placed at the disposal of the Protestant, Roman Catholic and Jewish communities on each Sunday free of charge. The relative numerical strength of the principal religious organisations of

America determines the time to be allotted to each.

JEALOUSY and mistrust among rival radio interests were referred to by M. Guernier, the French P.M.G., in a recent speech in connection with the opening of the Autumn Radio Salon at the Paris Colonial Exhibition. M. Guernier said that the delay in regularising French broadcasting was due to the conflict of two schools—one wanting a State radio monopoly and the other a measure of private liberty with State supervision. To abolish jealousy between large centres of population, each of which demands its own station, M. Guernier proposes to set up high-power regional stations of 60 k.w. or more, which would cover not merely individual towns but definite areas of country. He revealed that the 1931-32 Budget allocates £520,000 solely for the development of broadcasting. The main fear in French wireless circles is that this radio-minded P.M.G. will be dethroned from his post before the proposals

materialise. The Government has already been in power for several months—a long period for a French Ministry.

CZECHO-SLOVAKIA has set a new fashion by dedicating a Sunday to the popularisation of broadcasting. The affair took place on September 20, when special programme were broadcast and public demonstrations were held. The celebrations actually began on the previous evening, which was marked by "a model radio programme" in which the best artists and the most notable speakers took their share in spreading the gospel of radio. On the Sunday afternoon a radio-equipped aeroplane flew over Prague and maintained a spirited conversation, which was broadcast, with ground stations. The postal authorities co-operated by giving letters a special postmark as "Radio Sunday."

THE King of Siam, who is known to be one of the world's most radio-minded monarchs, has just purchased a television receiver from the Jenkins Television Corporation of New Jersey. During his recent stay in America King Prajadhipok visited several broadcasting stations, radio traffic offices, and radio factories, besides purchasing a collection of short-wave sets with which to keep in touch with the world at large on his return to Siam.

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