

A FINE gesture on the part of American amateur transmitters to show their eagerness to maintain their exact wavelengths took the form of a national frequency-measuring contest which was held toward the end of last year. At a pre-arranged time every amateur station in America closed down with the exception of 16 transmitters specially chosen by the Radio Relay League. These transmitters for fifteen-minute periods, using special frequency control apparatus, and it was the aim of each contestant to attain the highest degree of accuracy in measuring the respective frequencies of the stations transmitting. Results of the contest are not yet to hand.

ITALIAN broadcasting authorities are determined to create a school of Italian drama, and to this end famous Italian dramatists, including Pirandello and Marinetti, have been asked to write for the microphone. These dramatists have promised plays that shall be interesting and original, and these are to be the foundation of the new school.

IT is estimated that during the first six months of last year American broadcasting companies received the tremendous sum of £2,400,000 for broadcasting advertising.



DAVID SARNOFF, president of the National Broadcasting Company of America, when celebrating his 25 years' connection with radio at a luncheon, remarked: "No one need fear that opportunities do not exist today. The next quarter-century will see more happen and offer more opportunities than have the past 25 years. There is much to be done in the radio and television field."

THE police authorities of Paris are at present conducting experiments on wavelengths from 1200 to 1400 metres, using a power of 2 k.w. It is intended ultimately to equip all large towns in France with a similar station, which will be also fitted up with the necessary apparatus for the transmission of photographs and documents.

A REPORT recently issued by the United States census bureau gives the number of sets in operation in America on April 1, 1931, as 12,563,000. The Columbia Broadcasting System estimates that about 4,750,000 sets have been sold since that time, thus bringing the approximate grand total up to something over 17,023,000.

THE radio telephone system linking Hawaii and the United States, which was inaugurated on January 1, will probably be extended to the Philippines and later to Japan and other

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points in the Far East. Messages from the United States to Australia, Java and other points are transmitted now over the round-about circuit across Europe.

ONE of the leading British radio firms has produced a short-wave transmitter capable of propagating waves which will severely burn anyone standing near the aerial. It is reported that the radiation is so powerful that a coil of wire of a certain length, held near the transmitter, emits a long flame at each end. This effect is due to both the extremely short wavelength used—5 metres—and the high power of 20 k.w. Experiments are being made with this new transmitter with a view to employing it for the B.B.C.'s proposed scheme of localised broadcasting.

THE Belgian Postal authorities have copied the "pirate hunting" methods adopted in England, and it is reported that in less than one month the sight of the special gendarmerie appointed to track unlicensed listeners frightened more than 120,000 into buying licenses.

STATISTICS show that, whereas in 1929 there existed in Europe only one 50 k.w. transmitter, by 1932 there will be 27 super-stations of even greater energy on the air. The average output will work out at 1 k.w. as against 3 k.w. when the original channels were allotted to European countries.

FEATURES of the programmes from Leningrad and Moscow stations are operatic and dramatic performances, relayed from a large studio situated in the Central Telegraph Office of the Soviet capital. The general public is admitted free to these broadcasts, which are carried out in every way as if intended for theatrical performances. An audience of over one thousand persons can be accommodated in the studio, as well as an orchestra and a choir of some 450 musicians and singers.

NOW that the B.B.C. has permanently included television in its programmes, the number of television subscribers is increasing rapidly. At the present, roughly 8000 listeners possess television apparatus. John L. Baird, the inventor of the Baird system of television, recently arrived in America, where he will immediately set about organising the American branch of the Baird Company. He expects that they will shortly be manufacturing sets at the rate of 20,000 a week, or 1,000,000 a year, at a cost of approximately £7 per set, far below anything now offered on the American market.

RADIO has so often been blamed for bad weather that it comes as a pleasant change to hear of someone who believes that it can be responsible, if necessary, for eternal summer. The optimist is a Frenchman, Professor Ledarp, who, according to the Paris Press, is on the verge of a discovery which will show that Hertizian waves, if properly controlled, can produce "very fine days."

EIGHT studios, all underground, are contained in the sumptuous "Palace of Broadcasting," which was opened in Rome at the beginning of last month. One of these studios is the size of a large theatre and will be used exclusively for grand opera, which is regularly featured in the Italian programmes. The three stories of the Palace which rise above the street contain the administrative offices and artists' rooms. The Italian broadcasting authorities are evidently of the opinion that the best sound insulating medium is the earth itself.

ONE of Britain's leading radio firms recently secured a contract for the supply of £500,000 worth of radio apparatus for the Roumanian Army.

AT the surgical hospital attached to the University at Milan, loudspeakers are utilised for the purpose of broadcasting lectures to students direct from the operating theatre. While carrying out delicate operations, surgeons and professors can in this manner provide a running commentary for the benefit of the students separated from the theatre by a glass partition.

BUILDING permits for the first three units of the Radio City to be erected in the heart of Manhattan, N.Y., have been issued, several rules being waived in order to speed up a project which will provide employment for several thousand workers. The units for which the permits have been issued are a 66-story office building, which forms the centre of the scheme, the International Music Hall, and a talkie picture theatre, which is to have seating accommodation for 5000.



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