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The
Radio Record
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RADIO

Round the World

BUENOS AIRES is to have a new and up-to-date broadcasting station operating on a power of 20 k.w., to give reasonable daylight reception in the city and suburbs.

THE Soviet's appeal to the German broadcast authorities for permission to relay from the Leningrad Opera House has been firmly refused. The objection was advanced that there were no land lines suitable which would transmit all the musical frequencies. It is understood that Germany desires nothing whatever from Russia, and is at a loss to know how to discourage her people from listening to Russian broadcasts.

SALES of receiving sets in Canada last year—the worst trading year known—increased 28 per cent, although there was a decline of 16 per cent. in the sum received by the manufacturer and importer.

BELGIUM has created a Commission for Broadcasting. This was necessary to deal with the activities of private stations, which had overstepped the mark in objectionable references to the various members of the Government, including the Postmaster-General.

A CZECHOSLOVAKIAN doctor, who likes, if possible, to avoid rising from his bed in the early morning hours to attend patients, has fitted up a two-way microphone and loud-speaker system between his bedside and the front door. Patients or their representatives can now obtain the medico's advice with a minimum of inconvenience to both.

THE license fee payable by the owner of a receiving set in Italy has been increased by two shillings per annum. The increase will be allocated to a special fund for subsidising theatre productions of operas and other performances.

SEATS in "L'Orangerie," the municipal gardens of Strasbourg, have been fitted with headphones connected to a central broadcast receiver, and passers-by are invited to enjoy free concerts at their leisure.

BRITISH wireless license figures passed the four and a half million mark in March, and the total is now approximately 4,600,000. This is nearly a million in excess of the figure a year ago. It is expected that the 5,000,000 mark will be reached in September.

WITH the general improvement in land-lines on the Continent of Europe, elaborate arrangements are being made for international relays for the B.B.C. One of the first series will be of first-hand operatic performances from Germany and Austria, the home of opera.

PARIS has found another use for the photo-cell. Fixed to a lamp-post outside one of the boulevard subways is a photo-electric cell by means of which groups of lights in the passage are switched on or off, depending upon the amount of daylight or artificial illumination in the street above. The object of the contrivance is to maintain in the subway an intensity of illumination roughly corresponding to the light outside, so that motorists are not confused by great variations in light on entering or leaving the tunnel.

IT is hoped to solve problems connected with wireless echoes and the possible effect on radio waves of the aurora borealis from the investigations conducted by two expeditions to the Arctic this year. One led by Prof. H. V. Appellton will visit Tromsø, in Norway, and the other, led by Mr. J. M. Stagg, will study meteorology in Northern Canada. Twelve countries are co-operating.

IT has been found that the new B.B.C. headquarters are uncomfortably small for the staff, and already the corporation has been driven to fresh expenditure of £50,000 to purchase the freehold of two neighbouring houses.

WIRELESS is playing an important part in the England-to-Africa weekly air mail service. Seventeen specially equipped wireless stations along the 8000-mile route keep in constant touch with the aircraft while in flight.

FOR the first time in European radio history a really effective protest has been registered by listeners. Fifty per cent. of Denmark's licensees have failed to renew. The station managers assert that the reason is the serious money shortage, while others contend that it is a tangible protest against poor programmes. It is thought generally, however, that the cause lies between these two contentions.

THE safe in an Austrian electricity works is fitted with a loudspeaker equipment which cries "Help" whenever the door is opened. It is rumoured that local Socialists are endeavouring to have the alarm amended to "Help yourself."

AN electrical engineer of Hanover has invented a radio relay device by which a pilot may switch on the aerodrome lights before landing.

AN unusual honour has come to Henry Lee Carter, of Rochester, New York, who is reputed to be the world's youngest licensed radio transmitter. This child of ten years has been appointed an official relay operator of the American Radio Relay League, a distinction held by only 4 per cent. of the total number of licensed amateurs in the United States and Canada.

ABOUT £1,188,000 worth of receivers for motor-cars were sold in the United States in 1931—three times the amount realised in 1930.

RELAYS to German stations of Covent Garden opera, under Sir Thomas Beecham, are to be England's return for similar relays of German operas, which, it is stated in Berlin, are to form a regular feature of future English programmes.

RECENTLY a very perturbed member of the staff of a Paris broadcasting station upbraided an announcer for want of care in his remarks at the microphone. The offender had just announced the formation of a new musical group known as the Mozart Circle (Cyclé Mozart). "Regardez!" exclaimed the clever one. "Free advertisements are forbidden! Who is the maker of this bicycle?"

CANADIAN TELEVISION, LTD., is being incorporated under a Federal charter to engage in the manufacture of television apparatus. The organisation has secured exclusive licenses for use in Canada of patents and equipment of two outstanding groups, the Baird Television Co. of England, and the De Forest-Jenkins Television Corporation of U.S.A. The rights of the Canadian company will include not only all existing, but all future developments.

THE American listener looks with horror upon the license system employed to finance broadcasting in Europe, and fails to understand why anyone should not be allowed to tap the "free ether" without payment. Recognising this obstacle, the Sanabria Television Corporation of Chicago is asking timidly whether listeners would be prepared to pay monthly, a small sum, on the same basis as the gas and electric bills, for the privilege of seeing the world's greatest entertainments and athletic events, as well as the world's news, right in their own homes the minute they happen.

THE social spirit has always been well to the fore in American amateur radio, and clubs of all kinds abound within the ranks of the American Radio Relay League. The most unusual, however, appears to be the Barnyard Club, formed by a group of amateurs in the 9th Radio District. To be eligible for membership a transmitter must own call letters with a zoological significance, and at present the eleven amateurs to qualify hold "W9" call-signs, followed respectively by the letters, BUL, CAT, COW, DOG, DUC, EGG, FLY, HEN, HOG, HOS, and OX. America is not alone in unusual amateur transmitter clubs, however, for Europe has an organisation known as the "Ragchewers." Members qualify for admission by being able to transmit and receive 16 words per minute. Members "meet" on the air at specified times, on each amateur band, and run a little magazine entitled "Ragchewing." A subdivision is the Bed-Haters' Club, members of which usually transmit between 3 and 4 o'clock in the morning.

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