

World Radio News

THE Lisbon Municipal Council has passed a resolution to the effect that electric signs within the city area will be licensed only if provided with suitable filters to prevent interference with radio reception. The Portuguese Radio Club is endeavouring to have the order extended to cover all forms of man-made static.

ESTIMATES show that throughout 1931 there were in use between thirty-three and thirty-four million radio receivers. Nearly seventeen million were in North America, one million in South America, seventeen millions in Europe, one million in Asia, half a million in Oceania, and fewer than one hundred thousand in Africa.

THE little country of Denmark has 475,000 licensed listeners. Nearly one-half of these possess crystal sets.

RADIO-TOULOUSE, in search of new surprise features for its programmes, recently asked for suggestions. One listener immediately wrote suggesting that it would be a surprise if the station transmitted a programme "totally different from that announced."

RECENTLY an engineer working on a 2 kilowatt seven-metre television transmitter on the top of the Empire State building in New York, felt his finger becoming hot. Investigation showed that his ring was picking up enough energy to generate eddy currents.

QUITE recently currents generated by the thermionic valve, having a frequency of over ten million cycles a second, have been used in the treatment of certain forms of disease. The "cure" consists of an exposure sufficient to raise the temperature to 104 degrees or even 105 degrees, producing beneficial results without causing any harmful symptoms.

IN order to symbolise the industrial characteristics of the "Plan," the All-Russia Soviet Government has decreed that every broadcasting station in the country shall use the same opening and interval signal, namely, the sound of a hammer striking an anvil. Some of the stations were endeavouring to use the ether for purely cultural purposes, but the Soviet stepped in and demanded the continued reminder of manual toil.

A NEW "miracle valve," designed to eliminate atmospherics, was demonstrated recently by the superintendent of the radio research station, Mr. R. Watson Watt, at the Imperial Institute. The valve will also register storms and lightning flashes within a radius of 3000 miles, thus permitting accurate weather forecasting and safer long-distance flying, as well as recording a speed of 100,000,000 miles per hour and 25,000,000 oscillations per second.

IT is claimed that the largest twelve-word telegram ever sent by the British Post Office read: "Administrator General's counter-revolutionary intercommunications undeciphered." Quartermaster General's disproportionableness characteristically com-

Our Competition Corner

Results of No. 11 Competition

THOUGH the entries for No. 11 Competition were lighter than usual, it has proved one of the most interesting yet held. Miss M. Lilley, of Charles Street, Kalapoi, who won last week's prize, again wins this week's with the cleverest solution yet sent in to any problem. By making use of two diagonal roads, which the conditions did not forbid, she arranged a route by which the traveller could visit every town in the seventy-six miles. That the length of each diagonal is six miles is obvious from the theorem of Pythagoras, which states that the length of the diagonal of a right-angled triangle is equal to the square root of the sum of the squares of the other two sides.

Miss Lilley's qualifying phrase: "a straight line is the shortest distance between two points!" was not needed to win her the prize, though one of the best received. (Her solution is reproduced on this page.)

Two other competitors selected for special mention are Mrs. G. Ross, Cashmere Avenue, Khandallah, and Mr. A. R. Wilson, 1 River Road, Hamilton, both of whom sent in routes which left only two towns unvisited.

Competition No. 12.

THE winner of last week's crossword puzzle will be announced next week.

Ask Your Friends These

(Answers are given in next col.)

1. Which is the largest building in the world?
2. Which are the biggest ships that have ever been built?
3. Which is the longest bridge in the world?
4. Which is the highest mountain in the world?
5. Which is the largest royal palace?
6. Which building possesses the largest dome?
7. Who is the world's richest man?
8. Who made the first photograph?
9. Who invented the telephone?
10. Who invented the first aeroplane?

A Word Square.

Can you complete this word square by substituting letters for the lines?

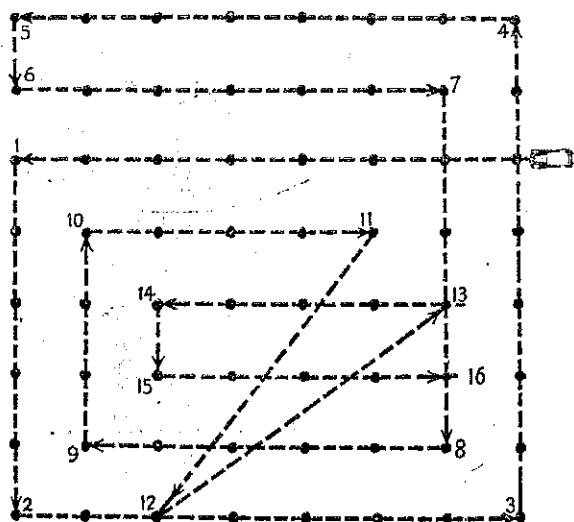
W _ _ _ E
_ _ _ T _ _
_ _ T O N _
_ _ N _ _
E _ _ _ T

Answers to This Week's Puzzles

1. The Great Pyramid at Gizeh, in Egypt.
2. The Majestic, Bremen, Leviathan, Berengaria, Europa, Aquitania and Olympic.
3. The Tay Bridge, in Scotland. It is 10,780 feet long.
4. Mt. Everest, in the Himalayas. It is 29,000 feet high.
5. The Palace of Madrid.
6. St. Peter's, at Rome. The second largest is that of St. Paul's Cathedral, London.
7. Henry Ford.
8. Niepce and Daguerre, two Frenchmen, in 1839.
9. While many people contributed to the development of the first telephone, it is claimed that Alexander Graham Bell, a Scotsman, was the first to make it a practical possibility. This he did in 1876.
10. Although people have tried to fly almost since the dawn of history, the first to accomplish this feat practically were Orville and Wilbur Wright. They made a machine which flew at Dayton, Ohio, in 1903. In the "Daily Mail" of December 19, 1903, appeared the following: "Messrs. Wilbur and Orville Wright, Ohio, yesterday successfully experimented with a flying machine, at Kittyhawk, North Carolina. In the force of a wind blowing 21 miles an hour, the machine flew three miles at the rate of 8 miles an hour. The idea of the box-kite was used in the construction."

Word Square.

The words are: Waste, Actor, Stone, Tonic, Breat.



The winning solution of Competition No. 11.

tradistinguished unconstitutionallists incomprehensibilities." This was sent in a contest for the longest wire that could be sent for sixpence—the address excluded. Hams should try it out!

A NUMBER of Hungarian opera singers recently went on strike, refusing to take part in performances which were to be broadcast. The reason given was their salaries had been reduced to meet economic conditions and no extra payment was made when the microphone was installed in the theatre.

IN Morse transmissions the number of letters comprised in the call are a sure indication of the class of station operating. Three-letter call signs are allotted to fixed or land stations, four letters to ships, five letters to aircraft services, and combination of a one-letter or two-letter nationality prefix followed by a numeral, and up to three letters, are used by amateur or experimental transmitters.

KDKA, the pioneer broadcasting station of the United States, put over 23,000 programmes in 1931, the studio officials during the period receiving 435,000 letters. To operate this station for the twelve months, half a million dollars were expended, of which one-fifth was paid as fees to artists. Opened on November 2, 1920, the station has not missed a single day of broadcasting.

IN Britain plays are censored by the Lord Chamberlain, films by the Board of Film Censors (which includes in its annual lists of censorable subjects "bleeding from the mouth" and "clergymen in equivocal situations"). The B.B.C. is its own censor. The Postmaster-General, however, has the power to request the B.B.C. to refrain from broadcasting any material of which he does not approve. This is seldom exercised, however, for the B.B.C. is a strict censor of its own programmes. Blue pencils flicker over talks, manuscripts, plays, and comedians' patter. Chief subjects of censorship include advertisement of proprietary articles, explanatory use of the name of the Creator, propaganda for private interests, and opinions ranging from the gratuitously offensive to the definitely libellous.

IN Belgium, where a listening tax is now strictly enforced, the police are taking drastic steps for the discovery and punishment of radio pirates. It is estimated that in Brussels alone there are more than 8000 persons possessing sets without official permits. A house to house search in Liege was conducted recently, and resulted in a large number of receivers being confiscated. Dealers are concerned with the measure the authorities propose in disposing of the big stock acquired by confiscation.

FROM time to time Leningrad and Moscow carry out a relay of foreign broadcasts, but if during such a tour through the ether the engineers come across a dance music transmission, they are compelled by the Soviet authorities to switch on to some other programme. Waltzes, polkas and kindred steps are tolerated to a small degree, but such post-war dances as fox-trots, rumba and black-bottoms are drastically vetoed. In the opinion of the Bolsheviks, they constitute a symbol of the decadence of the moneyed classes.

(Continued in col. 4.)