

THE
TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE
JOURNAL.

VOL. I.

October 1914—September 1915.

INDEX TO VOL. I.

	PAGE		PAGE		PAGE
EDITORIALS.					
<i>A la Guerre comme à la Guerre.</i> By L. T. Horne	36	Trunk Telephone Service, The	172	German Postal Budget for 1915	229
Automatic Exchanges	103	Two Kinds of Shop. By A. B. Walkley	58	German Post Office Journal and the War, A. By W. H. Gunston	170
Commissions, The	102	Value of Statistics, The	198	German Raids on the Coast, The	101, 114
Doctors and the Telephone	150	PRINCIPAL ARTICLES.			
Effect of the War on Telephone Development, The	150	Ancient Signalling. By P. Z. R.	88	How a Belgian Refugee became a London Telephonist. By Irma Mayelle	31
Efficiency of the Telephone Service, The	220	Antwerp C.T.O., The Last Hours of the As Others See Us. By Amy Ball	258	How American "Notes" are sent to Germany	260
Functions of the Stores Department, The	103	Automatic Equipment, P.O. Experiments with	95	Ideal Operator from the Supervisor's Point of View, The. By Eveleen Brereton	19
German Postal Budget, The	243	Automatic Traffic Distribution. By William J. White	9	Ideal Supervisor from a Telephonist's point of view, The. By Florence A. Cates	19
Government Ownership	38	Automatism in Telegraphy. By Lara	16	Imagination. By Mabel B. Pyne	148
Icelandic Telegraphs and Telephones	264	Baudot in Ceylon, The	169	Impressions (C.T.O.). By Georgina S. Lynch	124
Imaginative Statistics	60	Cable Room and the War, The. By J. J. T.	22, 28, 50	Jersey Potato and the Creed Reperforator, The. By G. Mogg	6
Intelligent Interest	80	Cable Room Memos. By J. J. T.	82, 104, 137	Lamson Carrier, The (see Collection and Distribution of Telegram Forms)	142
In Work as in War	199	Candidates. By A. A. Heap	191	Letters from Gallipoli. (I). By Lieut. Walter Genge	263
London Telephone Service. By G. F. Preston	196	Card-Index System for Use at Telegraphic Deliveries. By J. Spooner	40	London Subscriber, The. By B. B.	188
<i>Lusitania</i> , The	221	Central Telegraph Office. Some Outstanding Features	129	London Telephone Service Accounts. By J. Stirling	184
Man and the Machine	36	Classified Trades List of Telephone Subscribers, A....	239	Lower Telephone Rates for New York City	74
Mare's Nests	59	Creed Reperforator, The	6	London Trunk Exchange, The. By T. S. X.	193
Mysteries	243	Collection and Distribution of Telegraph Forms in the Instrument Room. By H. L. Pearce and S. Boden	142	Lothbury and old Telegraph Associations. By C. Lemon	217
New Telephone Rates and Directory	37	Comparative Statement of C.T.O. Traffic, Christmas 1913 and 1914	121	Military D Mark III Combined Telephone and Telegraph Set. By R. Baxter (A.T.S.)	163
Operating at Private Branch Exchanges Our Journal. By A. M. Ogilvie	127	C.T.O. Memorabilia. (See also Telegraphic Memorabilia)	171	Morse, The. By J. L.	61
Question of Liking, A	151	Darlington Automatic Exchange	25, 139	New Western Union Telegraph Office in New York, The	261
Railway and Telephone Economics	197	Developments in the Short Distance Trunk Service. By J. Stuart Jones	1	New York Telephone Rates. (New Scale of Charges)	210
Recommendations of the Association of Chambers of Commerce, The	173	Duplication of Telegrams by Copying Apparatus. By G. T. Archibald	231	Non-Technical Notes on the Darlington Automatic Exchange. By J. N. W.	25
Referred to a Committee	81	Efficiency of the Subscriber, The. By P. W. H. Maycock	43	Operating School, The. By H. C. Corner	190
Retrospect and Prospect	264	Electric Telegraph Reform (a Report to the Postmaster-General in 1866)	53	Our Exchange—Yesterday and To-day. By Stella G. Ward	234
Rumour	39	Elocutionist in the Exchange. By Horace Dive	47	Our Wounded Soldiers. By E. W. W. and A. L.	100
Rural Extension of the Telephone, The	81	Field Telephony. By G. W. J. Praat	162	Past and Present. By A. Berlyn	183
Secondary Uses of Telephone Directories	265	Friction. By Elizabeth M. D. Jones	236	Penalties: Then and Now. By A. W. Edwards	120
Telephone Developments	220	Geographical Distribution of the Telephone in Great Britain, The.—The Results of the Last Three Years. By W. H. Gunston	77		
Telegraphs and Telephones and the War	13				
Telegraphs: Forty-Five Years of State Control. By J. Newlands	126				
Telephone and Telegraph Societies, The	14				
Telephone and the War, The	127				
Telephone Development of the World, The	14				
"Telephone Injustice, A"	265				
Telephonists and the Human Element	242				

DEX SUPPLEMENT.

THE
ELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE
JOURNAL.

VOL. II.

October 1915 — September 1916.

LONDON : G.P.O. NORTH, E.C.

INDEX TO VOL. II.

	PAGE
EDITORIALS.	
Abolition of Abnormal Telephone Rates, The	169
Air Raid Warnings	126
Bacillus of Sloth, The	79
Channel Tunnel, The	227
Dublin	184
Dundee Cake	102
Editorial Criticism	14
German Postal Budget, The	199
Glorified Post Office, A	226
Increase of Telephone Tariff Rates	13
Industrial Relations	56
Intrusive Comma, The... ..	185
Mixture as Before	127
New Statutory Telephone Regulations, The	35
New Underground Telephone Cable between London and Liverpool, The	148
Our Readers in the Field	103
Protection of Telephonists, The	34
Postmaster-General on the Post Office Estimates, The	212
Postmaster-General's Report, The	168
Ratio between Work and Wages, The Residuum of Effort, The	198
Silver Lining, The	56
"Some" Advertising	126
State Ownership of Telegraphs and Telephones, The	102
Telephones, The	78
Telegraph Charges	34
Telegraph Tariff, The	12
Telegraph Tariffs	184
Telephone and the Cinematograph, The	148
Telephone in the Near East, The	128
Telephone Surcharge, The	12
Telephone Trouble	170
Telephonists and Zeppelins	14
Telephones for Telegrams	168
War and Telephone Expansion, The... ..	78
Zeppelin Raid Warnings	149

	PAGE
PRINCIPAL ARTICLES.	
"Adsit" Company and War Orders, The	104
"Ardentia Verba." By H. Bristow	145
Australian and Canadian Government Telephone Systems, The. By W. H. Gunston	8
"B.A." at Manchester, The	4
Battle of the Bawbees at Dundee, The Birmingham, The Dawn of Telephony in	149
"Blätter für Post und Telegraphie (April 1915—April 1916). By W. H. Gunston... ..	23, 48, 69
Bluff Télégraphique Allemand, Un—20,000 Mots à l'heure... ..	209
Booking of Trunk Demands by "A" Telephonists at the Central Exchange, Edinburgh. By R. G. D.	222
Books for Our Soldiers and Sailors. By H. Monks	181
"Broken in our Wars." By E. C. G.	9
Correlation of Public Administration and Finance, The. By F. C. Cook	43
Course of Instruction in Field Telegraphy and Telephony. By R. Baxter	171
Dawn of Telephony in Birmingham, The. A few early Reminiscences. By A. E. Cotterell... ..	100
Deficit on the Telegraphs, The. By W. F. H. Webb	23, 48, 69
"Express"	108
Few Glimpses of Postal Work, A	89
Field Telegraphy and Telephony, Course of Instruction in	19, 54
Functions of a Supervising Officer, The	100
German Army and its Telephones, The German Postal Budget for 1916, The Government Ownership	7
Greeting from the Postmaster-General, A	147
Heroism of the Girl Telephonists	200
Importance to the Female Staff of being Earnest, The. By A. Grosch	67
Loading of Telephone Circuits, The. By A. B. Hart	1
London—Birmingham Telephone Cable. By P. E. Erikson	68

London Telephone and Telegraph Society. Mr. Herbert Samuel's Speech at the Opening Meeting	22,
London Telephone Service Notes.	44, 60, 77, 113, 125, 155, 167, 179, 203, 21
Military Training in Morse Working. By Geo. W. J. Praat	Morse (S. F. B.) and the Telegraph
Morse's Beliefs	New Headquarters for the Post Office London Engineering District
New Hope for Telegraphists, A	New Postal and Telegraph Charges, The New Postmaster-General, The
Newport Automatic Exchange. By B. Waite	New Wage Scale for Telephone Operators New York Telephone Society
Notes from a Telegraph Officer's Diary 1868-1873. By W. H. Gunston	Phantom Circuits. By John Gaiter
Phantom Trunk, The. By E. J. Sithens	Phonograms. By B. R. Mead
Phonograms and Telephone-Telegrams. By J. R. Batchelor	Post Office Estimates, The. The Postmaster-General's Statement
Post-War Policy in Relation to Labour and Time-Saving Devices. By H. C. Gunton, M.I.E.E.	Postal and Telegraph Rates (Statutory Limits Bill). Debate in the House of Commons
Postal Work, A few Glimpses of	Printing Telegraphy.—High Speed and Low Speed.—Metal Storage Transmitters. By Donald Murray, M.A.
Protection of Telephone Operators in New York, The	Profitable Evening, A. By J. J. T.
Provincial Organisation and Development. By R. A. Dalzell	Recent Storms, The
Routing. By R. G. D.	Section Supervisor and her Method of Working, The
Sinn Fein Rising, The	Some Effects of the Telephone Transfer with some Thoughts as to the Future. By A. E. Cotterell
Some Notes on Wireless Telegraphy and the War. By B. S. T. Wallace	Some Trials of the Phonogram Supervisor. By Edith M. Matthews

	PAGE
Spirit of Organisation, The By V. ...	53
Supervision as seen from Below. By S. A. Coase ...	107
Technique Télégraphique en France depuis l'Origine, La. By J. J. T. ...	193, 207
Telegraphic Memorabilia. By J. J. T. 16, 37, 52, 80, 105, 121, 146, 163, 178, 196, 214, 228	
Telegraph Legislation in the United States ...	225
Telegraph Tariffs ...	179
Telegraph Tariffs and Economic Needs. By John Lee ...	186
Telegraph and Telephone Work in a Provincial Depot. By J. M. Rusk ...	200, 216
Telegraphs and Telephones in Belgium under German Administration. By W. H. Gunston ...	195
Telegraphs in India. By J. J. Tyrrell ...	81
Telephone at the Front, The. (From <i>Punch</i>) ...	54
Telephone Records:	
I. The First Introduction of the Telephone to the British Post Office ...	160
II. The First Official Account of a Telephone Exchange ...	191
Telephone Societies, The. By Arthur E. Cotterell ...	219
Telephones for Telegrams. The other Aspect of the Case. By F. B. G. ...	159
Telephone Operators and an Air Raid. By C. W. M. ...	162
Terrestrial Magnetism. By A. E. Cotterell ...	143
Traffic Department in the Near East, A. By Florence J. Minter ...	72, 97, 117
Training of Male Night Telephonists, The. By Jas. Magnall ...	124
Training of Student Telephonists. By Maggie Puttick ...	122
Transformed Post Office, A. By R. Baxter ...	221
Transmission of Telegrams by Telephone, The. By H. J. E. Still ...	71
Thirty Years Ago. The Story of the Sixpenny Tariff. By John Lee ...	5
Unveiling of the Supplementary Roll of Honour at the Central Telegraph Office ...	197
War—The Telephone and the Telephonists. By Ada E. Carpenter ...	154
Watches of the Night, The. By a Special Constable ...	15
Wireless Telegraphy and the War, Some Notes on ...	50
With the Expeditionary Force (VIII). By Lieut. A. A. Jayne, R.E. ...	26
Work of the Women of the London Telephone Service in War Time. By A. A. Heap ...	51
Written Complaints ...	90
Hic et Ubique.	
An Orthographic Puzzle.—Breast plates and Mouthpieces ...	14
The London Service.—Wireless Telephony.—Promiscuous Gift-making ...	36
Elektron.—Lord Farrer on the Telephone Service.—Post Office Promptitude.—Billy Sunday on Telephones ...	57
Chicago's Telephones.—Mr. Casson's Figures.—The Journal at the Front.—Greetings from Sheffield ...	77

	PAGE
Lieut.-Col. J. C. Chambers.—Mr. Burleson's Report.—Ministers and the Telephone.—Teutonic Alleviation.—A Public Scandal ...	103
Signallers.—Operators and Air Raids.—A Tall Story ...	128
A Debater's Handbook.—Guernsey Telephones.—Montreal to Vancouver.—"Horse Warmings." ...	149
Mr. Walkley as Chairman of L.T. & T.S.—The New Traffic Section.—Morse Controversy.—War Taxation in Germany.—Mr. Berlin's Postmaster-ship ...	170
Mr. Lee's Paper.—Portsmouth Automatic Exchange.—French Telephone Improvements.—An Emergency Telegraph Code.—A Complaint of 1896 ...	186
Banking Reform.—Mr. Casson's Figures Again.—Preparedness ...	199
Antwerp Exchange.—A Lengthy Telegram.—The Blue Strip.—The American Government's "Take-over."—The Bear and the Coyote ...	213
Our Second Volume.—Channel Tunnel.—Spelling Reform.—Chicago "Preparedness."—A Side Line ...	227
Miscellaneous Paragraphs.	
Belfast G.P.O. Honour Roll ...	231
Bristol Telephonists and Colleagues on Active Service ...	96
Criticisms of the New Charges ...	11
Death of a Pioneer of Submarine Telegraphy ...	116
Dover. Extract from Report of Air Raid at ...	157
Economy. (From <i>Punch</i>) ...	33
Edinburgh Telegraphists' Roll of Honour "Everyman," Performance of, by Members of C.T.O. Staff ...	164
Fowls and Fouls ...	183
Girl Probationers. Distribution of Prizes to ...	225
Gloucester Entertainment for Soldiers' Wives and Children ...	158
Hughes Keyboard employed in Russia ...	113
Leeds Concert, A ...	55
Leeds Operetta in aid of Post Office War Relief Fund ...	165
Letters from the Front. Mr. Stretton (L.T.S.) ...	21
Leytonstone Concert in Aid of Wounded Soldiers ...	150
London Concert in Aid of War Charities ...	50
Mallock-Armstrong Ear Defender, The ...	165
Military Machine, The ...	74

	PAGE
New Cross.—Entertainment to Wounded Soldiers by Exchange Staff ...	167
New York Western Union ...	74
"Our Neighbours," Birmingham ...	128
Paddington Exchange: Tea and Entertainment for Poor Children ...	158
Plymouth: Amalgamation of Trunk and Local Exchanges ...	37
Post Office Relief Fund... ..	48, 96, 158
Post Office Relief Fund (Belfast Committee) ...	80
Presentation to Mr. H. C. Townsend ...	88
Presentation to Mr. F. P. Lynch ...	183
Railroads to have Girl Operators ...	197
Recollections of Lord Alverstone ...	21
Red Cross Hospital at Malta ...	180
Siemen's Staff, Messrs. ...	140
Sheffield Social Outing ...	21
Soldiers Entertained by Kingston Telephone Exchange Staff ...	232
Staff and Technical Classes, The ...	18
Telegraph Finance ...	15
Telephone and Telegraph Societies:	
London ...	21, 79, 230
London Telephonists' ...	43
Brighton ...	112
Telephone Masonic Lodge ...	204
Telephone Service ...	147
Telephone Staff Hospital Collection ...	158
Telephones to all Parts ...	224
Trunk Fee Accounts. By V. ...	50

Personalia.

News of the Staff ...	22, 44, 65
88, 114, 136, 157, 176, 190, 204, 218, 231	

Obituaries.

Mr. Joseph Thyne ...	114
Acting Quartermaster Fradl ...	114
Mr. C. J. Wollaston ...	116
Mr. C. J. Spears ...	136
Mr. P. Duxbury ...	204
Mr. P. G. Burrell ...	211
Mr. H. Bille ...	231

Retirements.

Mr. A. Perkins ...	125
Miss B. H. Nicholas ...	204
Mr. Edward Beaumont ...	231

Reviews.

Blätter für Post und Telegraphie ...	209
Elementary Lessons in Electricity and Magnetism. By Silvanus P. Thompson ...	165
Elementary Manual of Radiotelegraphy and Radiotelephony. By J. A. Fleming ...	203

Post
Office
London
E.C. 4

THE
TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE
JOURNAL.

VOL. III.

October 1916 — September 1917.

INDEX TO VOL III.

	PAGE		PAGE		PAGE
EDITORIALS.					
American Telegraphs	22	Blizzard in the Cardiff District, The. By B. Waite	5	New Telephone Rates in Sweden... ..	6
Another Year	163	British Telegraph Practice ... 113, 127, 141, 155		Our Exchange in an Air Raid. By Eva Grace Godfrey	18
Automatic, The	162	Can Telephonists maintain Telephone Exchanges? By C. W. Brown	9	Phonogram Room: Should it be Staffed by Telephonists or Telegraphists?	58
Control of Public Services	78	Cardiff District, The Blizzard in the	5	Problems in the Design and Equipment of a Modern Central Telegraph Station. By A. E. Powell	107
Education	64	Control by Statistics. By E. Hare	44	Progress of the Telegraph, The. By F. W. Lienau (from <i>The Nation</i>)	99
German Post Office, The	134	Cost and Value. By E. Hare	1	Red Cross Bureau, A Suggestion	47
"Gilbertian"	8	District Traffic Notes. By M. B. Oldbury Dudley Automatic Exchange. By H. W. Dipple	24 158	Report of the High Speed Committee... ..	80
Good Opening, A	36	Edinburgh-Glasgow "No-Delay" Ser- vice, The New	114	Revision of Telegraph Tariffs	12
Hope	79	Experiences and Impressions of a Super- visor taking Air Raid Duty. By Edith E. Venus	104	Romance of the Telephone, The. By D. Wallace	153
How the Telephone saved Russia	92	"Express" Idea, An. By J. Webster	16	Russia, Telephone Development in	60
Immutable Civil Servant, The	23	French Telegraph and Telephone Rates, New	93	Scandinavia, Telephone Development in Should the Phonogram Room be staffed by Telephonists or Telegraphists? (1) By C. G. Jones	60 58
In the Time of Peace and Goodwill	50	German East Africa, The Wheatstone in "German Official"	146 30	(2) By H. Dive	59
Long Distance Telegrams and Telephone Calls	148	German Postal Budget for 1917, The. By W. H. Gunston	129	"Small Talk" concerning Telephony. By M. M. Hillier	32
Other End, The	162	Grievances and Sensitiveness of German Officials, The. By W. H. Gunston	87	Soldier Lineman, The. By Capt. A. A. Jayne	71
Our Girls in Khaki	120	High Speed Committee's Report	80	Some Apprehensions and a Moral. By John Lee... ..	15, 29, 44, 57
Our Third Volume	8	Ideals. By Amy Ball	20	Some Phases of the Intercommunication Switch. By Mary Tynan	94
Rural Telephones	64	Invisible Guides of the Universe, The. By Mary Violet Baldwin	82	Some Stray Thoughts on Telegraph Problems	150
Teachers and the Taught	50	Khaki at the Switchboard	102	Struggle, The. By H. G. Corner	85, 100
Understone, The	134	London Explosion, The. By Matilda Young	83	South Africa, Telegraphs and Telephones in	152
United States, The	106	London Telephone and Telegraph Society. Mr. Walkley's address... ..	37	Subsidiary Telephone Services. By M. C. Pink	121, 135
"What's in a name?"	36	London Telephone Service Notes 11, 26, 34, 47, 62, 77, 97, 104, 119, 138, 154, 167		Sweden, New Telephone Rates in	6
Zepps. and Zeal	22	London Telephonists' Society. Mr. Stuart Jones' Presidential Address	17	Technical Training in the Post Office. By Sir Wm. Slingo	51
PRINCIPAL ARTICLES.					
Air Raid Action. By J. W. Kennedy... ..	145	London Telephonists' Society. Col. Ogilvie's Address	87	Telegraph Tariffs, Revision of	12
Air Raid Impressions, Some. By Nellie Ward	18	Machine Telegraphy, Traffic and Practical Notes.	39	Telegraph Traffic. By R. Baxter	143
Air Raid Night, An. By J. M.	7	Measured Rate Traffic for Automatic Exchanges, A. By B. O. Anson	72	Telegraph Apparatus: an Introduction to the Study of Telegraphy. By A. Sirett	74, 90, 131, 150
Application of the Duplex to the Baudot System	163	London Telephonists' Society. By J. J. T. 11, 19, 31, 46, 61, 81, 89, 103, 118, 130, 147, 166		Telegraphic Memorabilia.	152
		Telegraphs and Telephones in South Africa Telephone Accounts for 1915-16. By W. E. Weston		Telegraph Tariffs, Revision of	12
		Telephone Development in Russia and Scandinavia. By W. H. Gunston		Telegraph Traffic. By R. Baxter	143
		Telephone in Modern Drama, The. By Celia Kate Hooper		Telegraph Apparatus: an Introduction to the Study of Telegraphy. By A. Sirett	74, 90, 131, 150
		Telephones in the United States		Telegraphic Memorabilia. By J. J. T. 11, 19, 31, 46, 61, 81, 89, 103, 118, 130, 147, 166	121

	PAGE
Traffic and Practical Notes of Machine Telegraphy. By H. W. Pendry ...	39
Trunk Loads. By Mary Violet Baldwin ...	95
United States, Telephones in ...	121
Working a Wheatstone in German East Africa. By Edgar E. Gates ...	146
Women's Work in the Post Office. By Miss A. A. Heap ...	66
Miscellaneous Paragraphs.	
Air Raid Warnings ...	149
Belfast, Telephone System in ...	49
Benevolence ...	25
Entertainments to Wounded Soldiers:	
Bristol ...	56, 98, 124
Dundee ...	133
Dalston ...	124
East Exchange ...	69
Edinburgh ...	112, 121
Glasgow ...	70
Leeds ...	46
Lee Green ...	112
New Cross ...	88, 140
North Exchange ...	98
Sydenham ...	80
Swansea ...	167
Walthamstow ...	98
Extract from Air Raid Report ...	157
Fleming (Prof.) on Long Distance Telephony ...	49
Franklin, The late Sir George ...	17
Glasgow Comforts Fund for Men at the Front ...	97
Guernsey Telephone System, 1916 ...	88
Hop Exchange Soldiers' Comforts Fund (H)unseemly Ideas ...	161 154
Iceland Telegraphs and Telephones ...	4
Letters from British and German East Africa. (F. L. Ford) ...	13, 21, 63
Letters from Telephonists in France ...	139
Lieut. Greely and his Patent Insulator...	26
Manchester Telegraphs ...	25
North Exchange: Sale in aid of Queen Mary's Needlework Guild ...	51
Newcastle Central Exchange. Comforts for the Forces ...	129
Our Record of Brave Deeds:	
Lieut. L. Millington ...	33
Paddington Annual Entertainment to Poor Children ...	112
Presentations:	
To Mr. Ashby ...	7
Mr. Beeston ...	25
Mr. Forsyth ...	140
Post Office Hospital ...	98
Post Office Relief Fund (Musical and Dramatic Entertainment) ...	97

	PAGE
Belfast Committee ...	49
Post Office Sanatorium Society ...	124
Retirement of Mr. V. M. Dunford ...	111
Retirement of Mr. C. Elliott ...	112
Rowland Hill Benevolent Fund ...	65
"Signals." The ...	7
Telegraph Girl, The. (From "Mr. Britling Sees it Through") ...	17
Telephone Heroines ...	27
War Savings Associations in the London Telephone Service ...	28
Women's Day ...	105
Personalia.	
14, 29, 42, 49, 70, 84, 98, 112, 125, 140, 154, 168	
Verse.	
Estimates of Life. A. G. D. ...	37
"Coin Box Collections seldom agree with Exchange Records." S. J. P....	83
Submarine and Snub Marine ...	163
Larger Illustrations.	
Telephonists on Duty at a Suburban Exchange during a Zeppelin Raid ...	18
Something on the Wires ...	27
Staff on Duty at Exchange during Munitions Explosion ...	42
The New Postmaster-General—Mr. Albert H. Illingworth ...	43
Entertainment to Wounded Soldiers at Glasgow ...	70
The First Batch of Women Telegraphists for France ...	125
The First Batch of Telephonists for France ...	126
Obituaries.	
Bamford, Miss F. L. M. ...	14
Franklin, Sir George ...	6

	PAGE
Martin, A. W. ...	79
Pike Pease, Lieut. R. H. ...	9
Powell, A. E. J. ...	152
Scott, Second Lieut. J. F. ...	168
Wolstenholme, Capt. C. S. ...	29
Hic et Ubique.	
The Yorkshire Explosion.—North-East Coast Air Raid.—Dudley Automatic Exchange.—An Early Telephone Directory ...	9
Group Photographs.—Telegraph Progress in New York.—Etiquette of Answering the Telephone.—Superiority in Telephones at the British Front ...	23
Increase in German Telegraph and Telephone Rates.—The Laputians.—"Are You There?"—A New Way to Telephone ...	37
Flight-Lieutenant Pulling's D.S.O.—The "Buzzer" and the "Dud."—The Creed Amalgamation.—The Peer's Pennies.—Twopenn'orth of Call ...	50
Philogamous Telephonists.—"Politeness and Poise."—Meter Readings...	65
Honours for Post Office Men.—"Mental Fatigue" and the Telephone.—A Call for the Unknown ...	79
Mr. Tyrrell's Loss.—Major G. Hooper's Valuable Services.—Margate Supervisor's High Sense of Duty.—Telephone Development on the Pacific Coast ...	93
Promotions in the C.T.O.—Liscard Exchange Changes its Name.—Are We The Telegraph?—"Sis," the "Guys" and the "Steadies" ...	106
Capt. Jayne's Promotion.—Retirement of Mr. Robbins.—The Covers of the Telephone Review.—The Telephone Monoplist ...	120
The Taube Raid and Rumours.—Sticking to their Posts.—The Human Note.—Swiss Telephone Progress ...	135
Congratulations to Mr. Lee and Mr. Mackenzie.—A Scattered Branch.—The Air Raid.—Deferred Contributions. ...	148
"Air Raid Action."—Repairing Deep Sea Cables.—Submarine and Snub Marine ...	163

Reviews.		PAGE	Principles of Electric Wave Telegraphy and Telephony. By J. A. Fleming...		PAGE	PHONOGRAMS AND TELEPHONE TELEGRAMS: TIME VALUES AND LOADS—		PAGE
Calculation and Measurement of Inductance and Capacity	By W. H. Nottage	147			115	G. D. Batchelor	48, 84	
Directions for Designing, &c. High Pressure Transformers.	By F. E. Austin	33				J. E. C.	69	
Elementary Principles of Wireless Telegraphy.	By R. D. Bangay	147	* Correspondence.				STAFFING OF PHONOGRAM ROOMS—	
Examples in Magnetism.	By F. E. Austin	33	BELGIAN POSTAL RELIEF FUND—			R. Baxter	96, 168	
How to Make Low Pressure Transformers.	By F. E. Austin	63	G. H. Stuart Bunning	48		J. D.	105	
System of Practical Chemistry, A.	By Wm. C. McC. Lewis	63	FIVE UNIT ALPHABET—			R. G. Davis	126	
Preliminary Mathematics.	By F. E. Austin	147	Donald Murray	34	TECHNICAL TRAINING			
			GERMAN TELEGRAPHIC BLUFF—		Thirty Years' Service		69	
			Donald Murray	12, 34	TRAFFIC AND PRACTICAL NOTES ON MACHINE TELEGRAPHY			
			J. B.	27, 48	Donald Murray		48	
					TELEPHONE ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR EDINBURGH—			
					J. Milne Henderson		140	

INDEX TO VOL. IV.

PAGE		PAGE		PAGE
EDITORIALS.				
156	American Telegraph and Telephone Control	13, 35	Letters from Telegraphists and Telephone-ists in France	151
146	Bureaucratic Inefficiency	113, 135,	Life in the Post Office Sixty Years Since, Recollections and Experiences of Edmund Yates	151
22	"C" Form, The	30	Little Bit of History, A. By Florence K. L. Hunt	101
36	Change in Spirit, A	12,	London Call Offices. By J. Stirling	12,
78	"Curiosity Calls"	115, 137,	London Telephone Service Notes	150, 155
36	Fifteen Years' Telegraph Development	158	McEwan's (Alexander) Farewell to the C.T.O.	119
78	Flowers and Flagellations	119	Martin (Arthur), Retirement of Mr. Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (see "War Honours").	124
64	Honours, The	124	New Zealand Telegraphs and Telephones	199
134	Internal Communications...	199	Our Visitor. A Pre-War Incident. By H. C. Townsend	152
50	1917	152	Past Jubilee of the Telegraph and the Coming Jubilee of the Telephone, The. By A. E. Cotterell	118
156	Our Future Issues...	131	Personal Glimpses of British and American Telephone-ists in France	38
106	Parallel and an Excursus on Exemptions, A	85	Post Office Estimates, The	25
50	Post Office Rifles Fund, A	125	Post Office Telephone and Telegraph Society of London, The. (Mr. Preston's Opening Speech)	154
106	Sanctity of Service Instructions, The	125	Psychology of the Telephone. By John Lee	115
120	Spirit of Fellowship, The	154	R.E. in Bagdad. An	79
8	Telephone Development	154	Relic of the Atlantic Cable Expedition, 1865, A	155
8	"Trial by Telephone"	115	Royal Visit to the G.P.O., The...	79
92	Vocational Training	155	So Near and Yet So Far. By Amy Ball	155
PRINCIPAL ARTICLES.				
101	American Telephone and Telegraph Co's. Report, The	115	Study and Development of the Individual in a Telephone Exchange. By Violet Baldwin	155
51	Anglo-Continental Telegraphs after the War. By J. J. Tyrrell	79	Stewart, David Mitchell	155
141	Anti-Induction. By Arthur E. Cotterell	155	Telegraphic Memorabilia. By J. J. T.	143, 157
57	Aspirations. By Ada E. Carpenter	143, 157	Telegraphic Review of 1917, A	71
139	Australian Telegraphs and Telephones...	71	Telephone Accounts 1916-17	148
76, 93	Austrian Telephone Tariffs, New	1	Telephone and Social Reconstruction, The. By John Lee	119
103	Balsara Telegraph Printing Machine, The	119	Telephone Development of the British Isles, The	5
9	British Telegraph Practice, viii & ix	5	Telephone Development of the World at the Beginning of 1917. By W. H. Gunston	28
15	British Telegraph Practice, ix & x	28	Telephone Doing its Bit, The	5
104	Call, The. By Jeanie McMillan	5	Telephone Operators at the British Front	7
159	Cheerfulness. By Ada E. Carpenter	7	Telephone Working at Singapore. By Dorothy V. Keyworth	123
66	Day in the Life of a Telephone Supervisor, A. By Mary I. McCallum	123	Telephonist as a War Worker, The. By Dora L. Hatfield	138
43	Directory, The. By J. Stirling	138	Tone—its Effect on the Service. By Amy Ball	117
18	Discipline and Control. By Celia Kate Hooper	117	"Traffic" Days	90
23	Document, A.	90	Traffic Department, The	137
58	Edinburgh-Glasgow "No Delay" Service	137	Unveiling of Rolls of Honour by the Assistant Postmaster-General	85
48	Equipment for Phonogram Rooms	85	War Despatches in Ancient and Modern Times	91, 132, 145
98	Explosion at Essex Munitions Factory	91, 132, 145	War Honours. Order of the British Empire, Lists and Portraits	29
42	Fleming (Professor) on the Working of a Telephone Exchange	29	War and its Effect on the Telephone. By Hilda M. Joy	24
17	First Telephone Exchange in Europe, The. By W. H. Gunston	24	With the Field Telegraphs in East Africa	6
26	From Egypt	6	Whitley Committee, The. By H. Monks	39
116	German Postal Budget for 1918, The...	39	Working of C.B. Private Branch Exchanges, The. By H. S. Thompson	39
147	High Speed Telegraphy Problems. By F. D. Markin	39		39
72	How to Build up Telegraph Diagrams. By J. T. Monaghan	39		39
53	Impressions of Anglo-Continental Working in War Time. By Margaret Shell	39		39
127	Leeds Automatic Exchange	39		39
151	Visit of the King and Queen to the Central Telegraph Office. By Ald. Edwards	39		39
99	Vocational Training of Boys. By C. Fenton	39		39
82	"Ye Merrie Buzzers" (From "Carrying on." By Ian Hay)	39		39
Hic et Ubique.				
9, 23, 37, 51, 65, 79, 92, 107, 120, 134, 146, 157		9, 23, 37, 51, 65, 79, 92, 107, 120, 134, 146, 157		9, 23, 37, 51, 65, 79, 92, 107, 120, 134, 146, 157
Correspondence.				
DUPLEXING THE BAUDOT—				
11	Donald Murray	11		11
27	Major Booth	27		27
GIFT DAY (Western, London)—				
55	B. Ashmead	55		55
FIRST TELEPHONE EXCHANGE IN EUROPE, THE				
34	A. E. Cotterell	34		34
PHONOGRAM ROOMS, EQUIPMENT OF—				
77	W. J. W.	77		77
108	R. G. D.	108		108
123	W. J. W.	123		123
TELEPHONE SERVICE INSTRUCTIONS—				
168	G. H. W.	168		168
Personalia.				
13, 28, 42, 51, 56, 70, 84, 98, 112, 126, 140, 168		13, 28, 42, 51, 56, 70, 84, 98, 112, 126, 140, 168		13, 28, 42, 51, 56, 70, 84, 98, 112, 126, 140, 168
Reviews.				
160	Automatic Telephone Practice	160		160
63	Creed & Co.'s Pocket Diary	63		63
46	Development of Rates of Postage, The	46		46
23	Directions for Designing, Making and Operating High Pressure Transformers...	23		23
63	Examples in Battery Engineering	63		63
63	Handbook of Standard Telephone Construction Methods	63		63
109	Men, Women and Guns	109		109
81	Short Course of Elementary Mathematics	81		81
46	"Somewhere"	46		46
45	Telegraph Practice	45		45
Entertainments to the Wounded: War Savings, Comforts and Relief Funds.				
63	Belfast 37, 84, Rochdale 56, Lancaster 63,	63		63
70	Bristol 70, Tunbridge Wells 70, Edinburgh 82, Birmingham 84, P.O. Hospital 87, 140, Battersea 89, Kingstun 90, P.O. Relief Fund 105, P.O. Rifle Fund 107, 139, P.O. Telegraph Staff 112, Park Exchange 140, Colchester 147.	70		70

INDEX TO VOL. V.

PAGE		PAGE		PAGE
	EDITORIALS.			
	"British Surprised, says Casson" ...	58	Life History of a Postage Stamp. By W. S. Austin ...	45
	General Post ...	40	Letter from Belgium. A ...	30
	Long Distance Telephony after the War ...	40	Letters from Palestine ...	2
	Nationalisation ...	91	London Telephone and Telegraph Society. President's opening address ...	15
	News' Wires ...	8	London Telephone Service Notes 12, 20, 38, 61, 77, 93	
	Peace and Progress ...	22	Marking Time in the East. By G. W. J. Praat ...	59
	Post Office Telephone Service, The ...	74	Marseilles Semi-Automatic Telephone Exchange ...	83
	Press Campaign, The ...	90	Midland Telephone Company, Limited (Oct.-Nov., p. vi)	84
	Tariffs and Costs ...	58	Muddle of the Telephones. The ...	84
	Telephone and Telegraph Societies, The...	22	My Bit on the Great Defensive. By Sapper Marland ...	1
	PRINCIPAL ARTICLES.		Norway and Denmark, Telephones in ...	14
	Aerial Communication within the British Isles. By M. C. Pink ...	46	Order of the British Empire. Appointments and Medals, with Portraits 32, 54, 80, 94	
	America: Revision of Toll Charges ...	32	Page out of Life, A. By Mary H. de Cort ...	31
	Telegraph Rates ...	57	Palestine in War Time. By Leon Simon ...	31
	Telegraph Situation in United States... 5		Phonogram Phonology. By Idler ...	42
	Antwerp Factory, Rehabilitating the Western Electric Company's ...	57	Polite Letter Writer, The ...	66
	Army Signals. By Major A. A. Jayne... 24		Position of Unexpected Happenings, The. By M. A. Tyler ...	38
	Atkin Berry, Death of Mr. L. W.... 23		Post Office Special Constabulary, The... 71	
	Cheating the Telephone ...	57	Promotion. By a Provincial Supervising Officer ...	62
	Combination of Edinburgh Trunk and Edinburgh Central Exchanges. By R. G. D. ...	52	Rehabilitating the Western Electric Company's Antwerp Factory ...	51
	Dalzell's (Mr.) Presidential Address to the London Telephone and Telegraph Soc. Day with the Signals in East Africa, A. By J. Skinner ...	2	Revision of Toll Charges in America ...	32
	Development of Printing Telegraphs in the United Kingdom. By H. W. P. Distribution of Telephone Stations in the New Europe. By W. H. G. ...	67	Some Experiences of a Telephonist in France. By Nora E. Mitchell... 16	
	Demonstration of FieldWireless Telephony and Direction Finding by the Marconi System ...	69	State and Municipal Enterprise, The ... 73	
	Dramatic Performance by I. K. Club. "Much Ado about Nothing" ...	37	Superannuated Man, The. By Emeritus Syria and South Turkey, Christmas, 1918. By Capt. I. G. E. Phillips ...	53
	East Africa. "Signals" in ...	2	Tales for Telephonists—Sub-Title "222" ... 14	
	Europe, Telephone Development of the New ...	69	Telegraph Rates in America ...	57
	Expansion of the British Telephone System, 1915-18 ...	92	Telegraph Situation in the United States, The ...	5
	Fernight in the Paris C.T.O., A. By H. Booker ...	85	Telegraph Supervising Officers' Conference 34, 36	
	Individuality as Applied to Man... 7		Telegraphic Memorabilia. By J. J. T. 4, 19, 36, 55, 70, 87	
	Interviews with official Celebrities. By C. W. M.:		Telegraphists' Impressions of Paris. By Mildred Smith ...	87
	(1) The Apparatus and Sub-Station Superintendent ...	64	Telegraphy as a Handicraft: A Study of Various Types. By John Lee ...	9
	(2) The Traffic Expert ...	79	Telephone in the last Days of the Hapsburgs, The ...	33
	(3) The Contract Manager ...	95	Telephone Switchboard Signals. By W. Blight ...	19
			Telephonist versus "The Mechanical Girl," The. By H. C. Townsend ...	20
			The "Toc-Emma Man" By G. F. Wear ...	6
			Theory and Practice in Telegraphy. By R. Baxter ...	52
			"Transformers, The" ...	56
			Visit to the War Seals Foundation. By V. R. ...	5
			Hic et Ubique.	
			8, 23, 41, 59, 74, 91	
			Correspondence.	
			POST-WAR TELEPHONE DEVELOPMENT—	
			F. W. George ...	27
			TELEPHONE EXTENSION DURING WAR TIME—	
			"N. O. W." ...	14
			"Forward" ...	27
			TELEPHONE SWITCHBOARD SIGNALS—	
			H. P. Dipple ...	48
			S. J. Pharo ...	48
			Personalia.	
			13, 28, 50, 66, 82, 90,	
			Presentations to Retiring Officers.	
			Mr. A. Mellersh ...	80
			Mr. C. G. Wright ...	89
			Mr. John Newlands ...	92
			Reviews.	
			Practical Telephone Handbook. By J. Poole ...	73
			Principles of Electric Wave Telegraphy and Telephony. By Prof. Fleming ...	72
			Magnetism and Electricity for Home Study. By H. E. Penrose ...	73
			Verse.	
			I did not Come Home Clean. By Ella Wheeler Wilcox ...	28
			To the Young Ladies of the Telephone Exchange. By Ella Wheeler Wilcox... 28	
			The Telephone to its Irate Renter. By W. H. Gunston ...	75
			Wanted—an Ideal! By W. H. G. ...	91

INDEX TO VOL. VI.

EDITORIALS.	PAGE	EDITORIALS.	PAGE	EDITORIALS.	PAGE
Anglo-French Telegraphs	22	Is Courtesy Dying? Is it worth	103	Wheatstone Speeds. By A. C. Booth...	35
Automatic Telephone Exchange, The ...	22	Reviving? By Ada M. Webb ...	103	Where the Arctic Cable Ends. By A. E.	134
European Conference, A	180	London Call Offices. By J. Stirling ...	18	Thompson	134
Future of Telegraphy, The	8	London Contract Office Staff Reunion...	56	Wireless in Warfare,	164
International Telegraphy	106	London Engineering District Notes, 130,	139, 167, 179, 201	Hic et Ubique.	
Newspapers and the Naive	88	London Engineering Department, The...	189	9, 23, 37, 54, 70, 89, 106, 124, 142, 162, 196	
Our Immediate Future	88	London Engineering District, Provision	133	Correspondence.	
"Panel" System, The	193	of Additional Lines in	133	<i>Mission of the Contract Department.</i> By	113
Postmaster General's Reply, The ...	36	London Telephone Service Notes, 10, 21,	41, 55, 75, 92, 111, 128, 147, 167, 184, 202	F. W. George	113
Reconstruction. By A. R. Kidner ...	70	London Trunk Exchange, The. By J. F.	45	<i>Psychology of Supervision.</i> By F. J. Millar	172
Retirements, The	52	Rooney	45	<i>Rural Party Lines.</i> By F. W. George ...	169
Revelations and Rates	8	Lord Mayor and Corporation at the C.T.O.	163	<i>Signal Service Old Comrades.</i> By John C.	43
Romance of Telegraphy, The	142	The	163	Dalton	43
Telephone Development of Large Cities...	58	Materials and the Present Economic	97	<i>Telephone Situation, The.</i> By W. R. Child	69
Telephone Progress	162	Conditions. By W. H. Allen ...	97	<i>The Times Articles.</i> By Equitable ...	184
Telephone Tariffs	124	"Money a Mickle mak's a Muckle." By	11	<i>Word for Telephone-Telegrams.</i> By W. E.	113
Telephonists and the JOURNAL, The ...	9	E. Breton	11	Bees	113
PRINCIPAL ARTICLES.]		Motor Exhibition, The. By H. M.	49	Personalia.	
About Advertising. By H. Morgan ...	94	Vincent	49	14, 28, 44, 59, 80, 96, 114, 132, 150, 172, 186, 202	
About Re-organisation. By H. Morgan	131	Mocimboa to Port Amelia, 1918. By	143	Re-unions.	
Amongst the Contracts. By Noble	13	W. M. Knight	143	Avenue "Peace" Dinner 13, C.T.O. 23, 42 and	
Morris	13	New Broadway Exchange, The. By	168	110, Southampton 44, Threadneedle Street	
Attendance Charts, Some Initial Con-	90	F. F. Meyer	168	and Bank 58, Coventry 58, Engineering	
siderations of. By D. M. Ford ...	90	New Discipline, The. An Impression of	40	Staff, S.W. London 89, Norwich 93, C.T.O.	
Alice in Numberland. By J. M. McMillan	157	a Memorable Paper	40	Lady Supervisors 94, London Engineering	
Arctic Cable, Where it Ends	134	New Clerkenwell Exchange, The. By A.	118	Dept. 96, Newcastle-on-Tyne 110, Ports-	
Bank Exchange, The. By J. Webb ...	173	H. Dyer	118	mouth 113, Aberdeen 131.	
Barnfield (Miss), Retirement of ...	149	Order of the British Empire, New Appoint-	121, 150	Reviews.	
Baudot, The. By J. J. T. 1, 16, 31, 48, 77,	86, 102, 117, 138, 156, 177, 198	ments	121, 150	Baudot Printing Telegraph System. By	139
Bridge over the Channelsea River ...	147	Pacific Cable, Story of the	169	H. W. Pendry	139
British Industries Fair and Crystal	114	Paddington Exchange and the Automatic	81	Elements of Vector Algebra. By L.	87
Palace, 1920. By A. W.	114	Distributor. By Cyril D. Stiff ...	81	Silberstein	87
Broadway Exchange, The New	168	Paris Telegraphs. By H. Booker ...	71	Government Service. By T. W.	105
Call Office Discrepancies and their Origin.	153	Peep into the Past, A. By J. Skinner ...	193	Saunderson	105
By G. D. Bateman	153	Psychology of Supervision, The. By	37	Mesures Practiques en Radioactivit�. By	105
Central Telegraph Office "Welcome	42	John Lee	37	W. Makower et H. Geiger	105
Home"	42	Psychology of Supervision, The. By R.G.D.	194	Practical Engineer's Pocket Book and	119
Clerkenwell Exchange, The New ...	118	H. G. Corner	120	Diary	119
Conference of Telegraph Supervising	107	Provision of Additional Telephone Lines	133	Principles of Commercial History. By	69
Officers. By a Provincial Representa-	107	in the London Engineering District,	133	J. Stephenson	69
tive	107	The. By Capt. J. G. Hines ...	133	Psychology of Management. By L. M.	44
"Crystal" Telephone, The	78	Some Initial Considerations of Attendance	90	Gilbreth	44
Delay v. Data	192	Charts. By D. M. Ford	90	Telegraphy. By A. Crotch. Telegraphist's	105
Edinburgh Central Exchange	159	Story of the Pacific Cable, The... ..	169	Guide. By Bell and Wilson ...	105
Electrophone Service, The. By G. F.	125	Tech. Exam., The. By J. Webster ...	195	Telephonic Transmission. By L. G. Hill	87
Greenham	125	Telegraphic Delay during the Summer	161	Textbook on Wireless Telegraphy. By	69
Experiences of Some Telegraphists during	25	Period: Can it be Remedied? By	161	Rupert Stanley	69
the Railway Strike	25	A. Wilkinson	161	Selected Studies in Elementary Physics.	122
Fifty Years of Telegraphy (Retirement of	57	Telegraphic Memorabilia 10, 19, 34, 54,	178	By E. Blake	122
Mr. Thos. Morris)	57	74, 83, 111, 128, 140, 166, 181, 197	178	Wireless Transmission of Photographs.	155
Farewell to Sir Andrew Ogilvie and Mr.	67	Telephone Charges (I.)	178	By Marcus J. Martin	155
Leonard Horne, The... ..	67	Telephone Development Study. By Geo.	61	Wireless Telegraphy. By W. H.	122
How the Repeater Repeats. By I.	183	E. Nicholls	61	Marchant	122
Man itt	183	Telephone Directories	186	Wireless Telegraphy and Telephony. By	122
Hints to Telephonists on Writing Poetry.	53	Telephone Service, The. The Postmaster	29	H. M. Dowsett	122
By John Lee	53	General's Reply to a Deputation of	29	Who's Who in Engineering	179
Humours of the L.T.S. Transport Office,	24	the National Union of Manufacturers	29	Verse.	
The	24	Telephones and Nationalisation. By P.	5, 7, 33	An Alphabet for Subscribers. By J.	94
Imperial Cable, The. By P. O. Molland	145	W. Maycock	5, 7, 33	McMillan	94
Importance of Continuing our Education.	123	Telephone Staff in Paris, 1919. The ...	85	Wild Ghazals. By W. H. Gunston ...	163
By Celia K. Hooper	123	Telephone Service through Newspaper	107, 115	<i>See also Hints to Telephonists on Writing</i>	
Institution of P.O. Electrical Engineers,	141	Eyes, The. By Horace Dive ...	107, 115	Poetry. By John Lee	53
The	141	Tragedy of the Telephone, A. From	27	Alice in Numberland. By J.	157
Interplanetary Wireless. By Arthur E.	104	Punch	27	McMillan	157
Cottrell	104	Trip to a Martyr City.—During an Official	3	Obituary.	
Interviews with Official Celebrities, iv.	26	Visit to Paris. By H. Booker ...	3	Thos. Fletcher, C. G. Wright, Florence J. Minter,	
The Auditor. By C. W. M. ...	26	Trunks and Locals. By "Idler" ...	185	R. H. Williams, 59; S. T. Nightingale,	
		Waiting for the Spark. By Evove, in	12	H. E. Mabey, 188.	
		Punch	12		
		Welcome Home to Ex-Service Telephone	200		
		Men and Women at Manchester, May 15	200		

THE
TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE
JOURNAL.

VOL. VII.

October 1920—September 1921.

LONDON: G.P.O. NORTH, E.C.4.

INDEX—continued.

	PAGE		PAGE		PAGE
Wireless Telegraphy and Telephony. By L. B. Turner	103	Correspondence.			
Introduction à la Théorie des Courants. By J. B. Pomey	104	<i>Automatic Development.</i> T. B. Johnson...	75	Verse.	
Wireless Telephone. By B. Leggett ...	120	<i>Cause and Effect.</i> Solls Ltd.	98	Feminine Plaint to the Editor, A. (Dorothy Turner)	153
Continuous Wave Wireless Telegraphy. By W. H. Eccles	120	<i>Civil Service Sport.</i> Richard R. Cox ...	177	Educating the Perverse per Verse ...	35
"Management" By John Lee	137	<i>Contract Branch Notes.</i> Robert P. Lowe	177	What Zaza said to Adrian (W. H. G.) ...	187
Practical Electrician's Pocket Book and Diary. The	137	<i>Madras Subscribers.</i> J. A. Rowland		Personalia.	
Arithmetic of Telegraphy and Telephony By Herbert and De Wardt	137	Knox	25	12, 26, 46, 66, 82, 114, 130, 146, 162, 178, 195	
The Hensley Telegraph	193	<i>Portable Telephones.</i> A. W. Robinson...	100		
"Appareils et Installations Télégraphiques. Par E. Montoriol Inspecteur des Postes et Télégraphes, Professeur à l'école Supérieure des Postes et Télégraphes, Paris.	193	<i>Retrospect.</i> A. A. C. Greening... ..	57		
		<i>Technical Pamphlet F.I. "Circuits"...</i>	130	Calendar of Coming Events.	
		<i>War Seal Foundation.</i> W. J. Roberts	25	130, 143, 162, 178, 195	
		<i>Wireless Telephony.</i> S. J. Pharo ...	107		

THE
TERAPH AND TELEPHONE
JOURNAL.

VOL. VIII.

October 1921—September 1922.

LONDON: G.P.O. NORTH, E.C.4.

INDEX TO VOL. VIII.

	PAGE		PAGE		PAGE
EDITORIALS.					
Frivolous Calls	124	Dalzell, Mr. R. A. Some Autobiographical Remarks	173	Possibilities of Post Office Development. By A. C. Winyard	57
Imperial Communications	24	Day in the Life of an Average Telephonist, A. By Dorothy Turner	117	Post Office Manners. By E. T.	39
Jubilee of the Society of Telegraph Engineers, The	106	Edinburgh Telegraph and Telephone Society	85, 105, 128	Post Office Engineering Department's Dinner	100
"Lesson," A	40	Extracts from Letters Home of a Young Telephone Engineer	180, 198	Principles of the Five-Unit System. By W. T. Cousins	135
Light—and Leading—Article, A	188	Geddes' Committee on the Post Office. Extracts from the Third Report	104	Publicity in relation to Post Office Work. By John Lee	125
Post Office Development	56	Has the Telephone added to the Sum of Human Happiness? By F. L. Sanders	47	Radio 'Phone Party, At a	196
Private Branch Exchange Working	107	How can we improve the use of our Long-Distance Trunk Lines? By F. Lange (translated by H. W. Camp)... ..	181	Ramsey Village Automatic Exchange. By L. B. Luget	81
Problematical "Luxury," A	172	Ideal Supervisor, The. By "Optimist"	2, 101	Select Committee on Telephone Service 1922. Summary and Recommendations	113
Recording of Calls	24	Illuminated Telegraph Forms in Sweden. By A. B. Eason	175	Speech through the Ether	1
Sir William Noble	140	Imperial Telegraph Communications. By F. J. Brown, C.B.E.	17	Some Aspects of Publicity in Relation to Post Office Work. By John Lee	125
Team Work. By R. A. Dalzell	172	Leafield Wireless Station, Opening of	7	Some Notes on Synchronism. By J. W. Teare	39
Telegraphic Development	156	Lee (Mr.), on the Civil Service	27	Stephens, The Late Mr. V. H. By E. H.	122
Telephone Directories	88	Lifting the Veil	71	"Talk of Many Things." (The Telephonists' Column)	162, 177, 194
Telephone Girl Graduate, The	156	Lions in the Path	160	Telegraph Mechanical Aids from a Traffic Point of View. By J. Stuart Jones	90
Toll Exchange, The	8	London Engineering District Notes 12, 31, 44, 55, 77, 94, 103, 130, 146, 163, 178, 191		Telegraphic Memorabilia 11, 25, 38, 53, 69, 86, 102, 120, 135, 176, 184	
Wireless Broadcasting	140	London Telephone Directory, The. By M. Hilda Knights	36	Telegraphy in America. By H. H. Harrison	108
Wireless and its Prophets	8	London Telephone Service Notes 13, 29, 45, 62, 79, 95, 115, 131, 147, 162, 179, 194		Telephone Calls—Recording by the Public	129
World's Telephones, The	72	London Toll Exchange, The. By M. C. Pink	33	Telephone Companies of Great Britain and Ireland. By Arthur E. Cotterell	149, 168
PRINCIPAL ARTICLES.					
About Statistics. By H. Morgan	47	London Trunk Exchange, The. By J. W. G. Kennedy	192	Telephone Development of the World at Dec. 31, 1920, The. By W. H. Gunston	66, 82
Accuracy of Registration. (Answers to Questions raised by the Subscribers)	20	Modern Wireless Telegraphy and Telephony (continued). By F. Addey	21, 43, 61, 68, 93, 98, 118, 133, 151, 170	Telephone Development Studies. By H. J. Maclure	174
Anglo-Continental Telegraph Communications, 1914-21. By F. J. Binder	42, 50	Night Telephone Service and Some of its Problems. By E. J. Lansbury	73	Telephone Service. From the Subscriber's Point of View... ..	9
Baudot. The. By J. J. T. (continued). 2, 22, 35, 52, 75, 84, 101, 123, 138, 161, 167, 186		Noble, Retirement of Sir William	139	Telephone Supervision. By "S," Liverpool	65
Baudot Manipulation. By H. B. and A. B. H. B.	153	North Walsham Telegraph Repeater Station. By A. C. Booth	189	Toll Exchange, The London	33
Central Telegraph Office Section, London Engineering District. By G. F. Greenham and P. G. Hay	14, 30	Opening of Leafield Wireless Station	7	Troublesome Wheatstone Transmitter Fault, A.	195
Combined Wire and Wireless Telephonic Communication with Amsterdam	49	Our Film	37	Trunk System, The. By A. E. Coombes	5
Controller's Office Private Branch Exchange	97	Population of the Large Cities according to the Census of 1921 and its Relation to the Number of Telephones. By W. H. G.	27	Vocational Training. By Major Jayne, D.S.O.	85
"Critics Converted to Paying Compliments"	135			Wireless Exhibition at Edinburgh	76
				Wireless Telegraphy and Telephony, Modern. See under "M."	
				Women in the Civil Service. By L. M. Herring	142, 158

INDEX—continued.

	PAGE
Short Paragraphs.	
Bates, T. A., Presentation to	48
Booth-Baudot Duplex	9
Bright (Sir Chas.) and Partners, the firm of	32
Constantinople Telephone Service	173
Currall, P. F., Presentation to	64
Cricket	15, 155
From Telegraphist to Postmaster General	171
Football, Centels v. St. Bartholomew's Hospital	148
Golf	48, 148
London Telephone Service Dinner	64
Manchester Telephone Social Club	116
Million Telephones in the United Kingdom, A.	103
Multiversal Test Set	155
Our Boys	161
P.O. Stores Department. Prize Distribution at Holloway Factory... ..	78
Telephone Charges, Revised	145
Threadneedle Street B.O. Dinner	114
War Memorials—	
Unveiling of Brighton	14
" Secretary's Office	49
Western Contract Office Dinner	50
Reviews.	
Automatic Telephone Systems. By Wm. Aitken	6
Common Battery Telephony Simplified. By M. Walter Atkins... ..	99
Continuous Wave Wireless Telegraphy. By B. E. G. Mittell	100
Directive Wireless Telegraphy. By L. H. Walter	74
Elementary Determinants for Electrical Engineers. By H. P. Few	171
Electrical Engineering Testing. By G. D. Aspinall Parr	123
Electricity. By Sydney G. Starling	159

	PAGE
In One Man's Life (T. N. Vail). By Albert Bigelow Paine	159
Marine Wireless Pocket Book. By W. H. Marchant	139
Model Questions and Answers on the Thermionic Valve. By Clifford Jones	139
Neuere Entwicklung der Funktelegraphie, Die. By H. Wigge... ..	34
Practical Electrician's Pocket Book and Diary	75
"Post Annual, The"	23
Principles of Radio Communication. By J. H. Morecraft	23
Questions and Solutions in Magnetism and Electricity." By Wm. J. White	99
Real Mathematics. By Ernest G. Beck	99
Rays of Positive Electricity, &c. By Sir J. J. Thomson	75
"Sindri"	75
Thermionic Tubes in Radio Telegraphy and Telephony. By John Scott-Taggart	6
Wireless for the Home. By Norman P. Hinton	171

Hic et Ubique.

9, 25, 41, 72, 88, 107, 124, 141, 157, 172, 188

Verse.

Advice to Dirigeurs. By O. N. Thesurface	6
"If." By Dorothy Turner	79
Ballad of the Disgusted Diner. By W. H. G.	89
"Cutting." By Dorothy Turner	96
Triolets." By W. H. G.	107
The Point of View. By Dorothy Turner	132
The Tyranny of Telescopes. By W. H. G.	137
The Sinner. By Dorothy Turner	147
Monday Morning	163
A Lament. By G. M. Turner	163
The Dear Redundant Staff. Gertrude Turner	177
Why, Therefore. By Dorothy Turner... ..	179
A Rhyme in Season. By Dorothy Turner	194

	PAGE
Correspondence.	
A "Lesson." A. E. Cotterell	64
Baudot Distributor. "Dirigeur"	196
<i>Some More Notes on Synchronism.</i>	
Donald Murray	76
R. G. Leathern	96
<i>Economy in Line Time—</i>	
R. Pratley	128
Donald Murray	137
<i>Baudot and Wheatstone—</i>	
Arthur Jas. Polley	155, 196
W. T. Cousins	180

Personalia.

16, 32, 48, 64, 80, 116, 132, 148, 164, 180,

Retirements.

Brown, W., Dundee	32
Carmichael, F. A., Manchester	80
Clark, T. J., Norwich	105
Cooke, A. E.	105
Dawkes, G.	12
Fraser, J., Aberdeen	32
Hawkins, Miss, Manchester	116
Hopkins, A. H.	104
Johnston, Miss A. St. Clair	15
Noble, Sir Wm.	139
Parsons, W. J., Llandudno	77
Rhodes, J. S.	114
Stubbs, A. J.	23
Sutcliffe, H. B.	23

Obituary.

Booth, H. J. E.	89
Hook, Reginald Myles	80
Partridge, G. Noble	147
Rigg, W. J.	80
Stephens, V. H.	122

THE
TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE
JOURNAL.

VOL. IX.

October 1922 — September 1923.

LONDON: G.P.O. NORTH, E.C.4.

INDEX TO VOL. IX.

PAGE		PAGE		PAGE
EDITORIALS.				
26	Anglo-Continental Telephone Communications	158	Deposits. By Clerical Officer (Rochdale)	
44	Broadcast Music—Concords and Discords	209	Development and Otherwise. By Eustace Hare	
181	European Telegraph Statistics	39	Dewsbury New Exchange	
120	French Telephone Projects	220	Development Study Results. By G. E. Nicholls	
216	History and Prophecy	187, 205	Early Submarine Telegraphy. By Sir Charles Bright	
44	International Telephony	91	Economic Position of Women, The. By Nora Milnes	
45	Notable Jubilee, A	58	Efficiency in the Telephone Service. By T. G. Tutty	
180	Our Centenary	177	Executive Aptitude. By H. Morgan	
100	Overland and Transatlantic Telegraphs	12	Extension of the London Toll Area	
164	Rural Telephone Development	48, 150	Europe. Long-distance Telephony in	
9	Telegraph Zone System, The	67	First Colonial Repeater Station of the British Post Office, The. By E. G. Furneaux	
82	Telephone Call from America, A	60	General Election and the C.T.O., The. By W. H. J.	
82	Telephone Development Again	84, 102	General Features of the Anglo-Continental Telegraph Service since the War. By J. J. Tyrrell	
198	Understanding and Appreciation	48	G.P.O. Arts Club	
142	Useless Conversation	122, 143	Great Slump in Prices (The); Its Causes, Its Course and Its Limits. By G. F. Mansbridge	
62	1922	176, 194, 211	How the Telephone Works. By A. Crotch	
PRINCIPAL ARTICLES.				
25	About Supervision. By H. Morgan	12	Institute of Public Administration, The	
202	Advantages and Disadvantages of Relief Supervising. By H. Wilson	48	International Telephony in Europe (Mr. Gill's address)	
58	An Advertisement	11, 32, 49, 59, 78, 98, 131, 149, 170, 197, 222	London Engineering District Notes	
84, 102	Anglo-Continental Telegraph Service since the War. By J. J. Tyrrell	116, 136	London School of Telephone Operating, Camberwell, The. By A. M. B. Newitt	
93	Baudot Duplex Results. By A. C. Booth	16, 34, 54, 70, 89, 109, 131, 153, 172, 190, 203, 224	London Telephone Service Notes	
151	Birmingham Postal, Telegraph and Telephone Society	150	Long-Distance Telephony in Europe	
138	Broadcasting Licences	129	Merry Party, A	
1, 19	Business Man and the Civil Servant, The. By Eustace Hare	21	Mr. Morten's Collection of Historical Postal Items	
155	Can we Increase our Telegraph Traffic? By Major Jayne	115	Murray Multiplex, The. By W. P. Morris	
203	Civil Service Sports Council—Cricket Match: Rest of Britain v. London	133	New School—and the Old, The. By D. Duly	
69	Concerning Efficiency. By T. A. Beck	27	"No-Delay" Trunk Service. By D. Howieson	
28	Contract Department Organisation. By F. W. George	197	Personal Factor (The); Should it be ignored or not. By Eleanor M. McAllister	
208	Conversazione of the Institution of Civil Engineers	39	Phonogram Working. By W. C. Griffith	
		188	Pivot of the Telephone Service, The. By E. J. Johnson	
		29	Printing Telegraphs, a Universal Five-Unit Code for	
		139, 163, 179, 201, 217	Progress of the Telephone and Telegraph Systems	
		69	Public Service, The. By H. Morgan	
		67	Repeater Station (The First Colonial) of the British Post Office	
		3	Romance of the Telegraph, The. By J. Skinner	
		99	Some Aspects of the Communication Art	
		46	Some Remarks on Technique. By Sir Henry N. Bunbury	
		186	Southampton Automatic Exchange	
		165	Studies in Financial Administration. By F. C. Cook	
		191, 218	Submarine Cables and Ocean Floors. By J. J. T.	
		66	Suggestions towards the Improvement of the Service. By J. M. Dalley	
		13, 32, 51, 69, 79, 90, 128, 151, 169, 185, 204, 223	"Talk of Many Things"	
		9, 24, 40, 57, 76, 97, 118, 148, 159, 175, 200, 221	Telegraphic Memorabilia	
		160	Telephone Development Studies	
		61	Telephone Development. By a Contract Manager	
		73, 92	Telephonists' Column, The. (See "Talk of Many Things.")	
		178	Telephonic Development of the World at Dec. 31, 1922. By W. H. Gunston	
		178	Telephonic Development of British Towns	
		29	Universal Five-Unit Code for Printing Telegraphs. By A. E. Thompson	
		134	Wireless. By W. Winkler	
		55	Wireless Communications. By Lt.-Col. C. G. Crawley	
		80	Wireless Telephone Broadcast Reception: The Facts. By B. S. T. Wallace	
		174	Wireless Phototelegraphy. By F. Wyndham	
		63	Whitleyism and Control. By J. W. Bowen	
		111	When the Telephone came to England. By Arthur E. Cotterell	
		182	Where are we going? By G. Buckeridge	
		205	Work of a Large Telephone Exchange, The. By W. E. Yarroll	

INDEX—continued.

	PAGE
Short Paragraphs.	
Another Brain Wave	14
Automatic Telephones at Dairen... ..	154
Cable Room Annual Sports, The... ..	223
C.T.O. Bowling Club	171
Central Telegraph Office Bazaar	31, 39
" " " Football Final... ..	153
Edinboro' Radio and Telegraph and Telephone Meeting	31
Fleetwood Automatic Exchange	31
Golf	165, 190
India, Telephone Progress in	16
Lawn Tennis, Civil Service Championships	18
Norwich Telephone Society	112
Noteworthy Telegraphic Performance	43
Office of Works Sports Meeting	211
Photographs of C.T.O.	12
Prize Giving at Holloway Factory	61
Post Office Total Abstinence Society	156
Rochdale, Tennis and Bowling	11
Rotary Automatic System, Glasgow Corpn.	162
Telephone and Telegraph Society of London	9
Transatlantic Wireless Telephony	134
Weather Forecasts for Telephone Sub- scribers	139, 203
Reviews.	
Journal of Public Administration	90
The Post Annual	48
Printing Telegraph Systems and Mechanisms. By H. H. Harrison	137
Practical Electrician's Pocket Book	163
Telegraphy and other Works. By A. Crotch	199
Telephony. By T. E. Herbert	178
Wireless: Popular and Concise. By Col. Chetwode	50
Wireless Telegraphy, Vol. II. By Rupert Stanley... ..	178
Hic et Ubique.	
9, 45, 63, 83, 100, 120, 142, 164, 181, 199, 217	

	PAGE
Verse.	
Code of Telephone Manners. By W. H. G.	83
Discipline. By Rehoboam	185
"H." By C. V. Long	15
Might One Suggest. By J. Isom... ..	68
No. Six Hundred	185
Omnia Mutantur. By W. H. G.	121
Open Window, The, and the Closed	58
Our Bazaar	72
Soliloquy, A. By G. M. Turner	32
Trial by Jury. By J. M. McMillan	15
Vacation. By W. H. G.	179
Correspondence.	
<i>An Advertisement—</i>	
"Yorky"	101
"The London Principal"	128
<i>Appeal of the Reply-Paid Telegram, The.</i> W. A. V.	186
<i>Five-Unit System.</i> W. T. Cousins	25
<i>Human Voice (The) as heard 300 miles on a Home-Made Wireless Set.</i> R. Baxter	127
<i>Imperial Service Order.</i> H. P. Steed	208
<i>Outburst, An.</i> M. B. Pyne	127
<i>Record Tables.</i> H. P. Brown	25
<i>Suggestions towards the Improvement of the Service.</i> E. G. O'Connor	101
<i>Telephone Development Studies.</i> H. Julius Maclure	186
<i>War Seal Foundation.</i> W. J. Roberts	60
<i>War Telephonists in Egypt.</i> R. R. Robinson	128
Personalia.	
18, 36, 72, 132, 154, 172, 190, 208, 224	
Portraits.	
POSTMASTERS-GENERAL.	
The Rt. Hon. Neville Chamberlain, M.P.	83
The Rt. Hon. Sir Wm. Joynson-Hicks, Bart., M.P.	143

	PAGE
The Rt. Hon. Sir Laming Worthington- Evans, Bart., M.P.	173
Mr. G. F. Preston... ..	81
Mr. W. A. Valentine	81
The Late Sir John Gavey	88
Presentations.	
(See also "PERSONALIA.")	
Adams, F. E., Plymouth	132
Brodie, A. S., Aberdeen	132
Clow, Mr., Aberdeen	68
Edward, G., Gloucester	154
Evans, R. H., Gloucester	125
Irvine, Mrs. A. H., Edinburgh	39
Lowe, Harvey, Secretary's Office	184
Kidd, A. M., Cork	98
Morten, W. V., Nottingham	129
Napier, W. H. U., Secretary's Office	121
Pharo, S. J., Blackburn	3
Richards, Miss M. G.	110
Sneath, J., Nottingham	154
Smith, Archer, Newcastle	94
Stelling, J. W., York	172
Stewart, J. D. W., Manchester	94
Storrie, J. H., Aberdeen	172
Swithinbank, J. W., Sheffield	217
Thompson, E. J., St. Albans	13
Tucker, R. U., Birmingham	132
Weston, C. S., Coventry	208
Obituary.	
Sir John Gavey, C.B.	88
Mr. Arthur Martin	110
Mrs. Waite	65
Mr. M. B. Oldbury	154
Mr. Percival Baker, Brighton	172
Mr. Geo. Hey, Rochdale	223

59/34.

THE
TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE
JOURNAL.

VOL. X.

October 1923 — September 1924.

LONDON: G.P.O. NORTH, E.C.4.

INDEX TO VOL. X.

PAGE		PAGE		PAGE	
EDITORIALS.					
Anglo-Foreign Telegraphs and Trade, The	96	Early Days of the London-Paris Telephone	179	"Relay" Private Automatic Branch Exchange for Debenhams, Ltd., London	83
Continuity of Telephone Service	194	Earthquake in Japan, The	58	Resourcefulness of Operators	128
Directions to Subscribers...	26	Everyday Work as a Sport. By Winifred M. Etheridge	178	Russian Soviet Post Office, The. By A. Gordon	74
Directory Entries	80	First Inter-Urban Automatic Telephone Exchange, The	57	Significance of State-Owned Telephones, The. By Wm. Day	65, 81
Holidays	214	German View of the Paris Conference on an International Trunk System, A	4	Simultaneous Broadcasting. By H. W. Litt	1
International Telephone Communications	154	Imperial Wireless Telegraphy Committee, 1924. By W. E. W.	110	Some New Reviews	36
Look Forward, A	46	International Telephone Conference	148	Some Random Reminiscences. By A. E. Cotterell	25, 37
Motor Cars and Telephones	114	King's Message to the Empire, The. A Telegraph Record	135	Study of the Baudot Regulator, A. By F. W. Cook	2
Old and New London Telephone Directories	134	Little Knowledge, A. By G. T. Hay	52	Strowger Private Branch Exchange at New London County Hall	51
Person to Person Calls	80	Long-Distance Telephony in Europe	169	Submarine Cable Experience in Europe	92
Praise of Other Lands and Times, The	174	London Engineering District Notes 12, 31, 53, 71, 85, 102, 119, 143, 163, 203	203	Surveyor's Point of View of the Administration and Control of Telegraphs and Telephones	161, 175
Telephone Progress	8	London Telephone Service Notes 16, 32, 54, 72, 88, 104, 122, 144, 166, 184, 206, 224	224	"Talk of Many Things"—The Telephonists' Column 15, 34, 55, 70, 87, 102, 120, 141, 164, 182, 204, 219	219
What is Truth?	26	London Telephone Service Staff Dinner	86	Telegraph Traffic, Present State of, and Future Outlook	98
World's Telephones, The	96	Minniotti Telegraph System, The. By V. Castelli	92	Telegraphic Memorabilia (By J. J. T.) 5, 22, 38, 61, 78, 93, 108, 131, 151, 171, 189, 215	215
Year's Progress, A	64	Morkrum Teletype, The. By A. P. O.	21	Telephone as a Target, The. By Eustace Hare	195
PRINCIPAL ARTICLES.					
About Enthusiasm. By H. Morgan	221	Multiplex Telegraph Developments in the C.T.O.	192	Telephone Development of Great Cities	187
Adaptability. By H. Morgan	44	New Atlantic Cable	9	Telephone Development of the World at the End of 1922. By W. H. Gunston	90, 107
Administration and Control of Telephones from a Surveyor's Point of View. By T. Kelly	161, 175	New Phonogram Equipment in the Central Telegraph Office. By W. G. Griffiths	41	Telephonists' Column (See "Talk of Many Things")	
Administration of the Telephone Service. The Public and the	28	New Phonogram Room at the Central Telegraph Office, The	11	Training of the Contract Officer, The. By F. W. George	186
"Allen of the Stores." By G. F. M.	85	New Wireless Broadcasting Arrangements, The	19	Transatlantic Wireless Telephony	159
Another View of Telegraphs. By F. Kemp	121, 140	Our "Hallo" Girls. By Laurie Smith	10	Weilheim Inter-Urban Automatic Exchange	57
Automatic Telephone, The	50	Our Libelled 'Phones	69	Wembley. The Post Office Exhibit	149
Automatic Telephone Development in India	111	Pacific Cable, The	198	We Telephonists (See "Talk of Many Things")	
Baudot Telegraph Printing System on an Indian Radio Circuit	212	Pioneer in Telegraphy, A. (Sir Wm. Cooke)	180	What are We Here For? By H. Gordon Selfridge	115
Baudot Regulator, A Study of the	2	Post Office Exhibit at Wembley, The...	149	Who Invented the Telephone?	190
Berlin Automatic System	191	Post War Trunk Telephone Development. By H. G. Trayfoot	136, 155	Wireless Broadcasting Arrangements, The New	19
Best Bed-Book, The. By K. R. G. Browne	14	Power Circuit Interference with Telegraphs and Telephones. By S. C. Bartholomew	208	Wireless and the Weather	203
Book Beside the Telephone, The	75	Present Day Multiplex Telegraph Developments in the C.T.O., London	192	Wireless Telephony. By E. H. Shaughnessy	48, 59
Chile, History of Telephone and Telegraph in	213	Present State of Telegraph Traffic and the Future Outlook, The. By J. Stuart Jones	98	Wireless Telegraphy Committee, 1924	110
Concerning Broadcasting	68	Problem of the Telegraphs, The. By T. E. Herbert	126	World at Your Elbow, The. By A. A. Jayne	168
Conference of Telegraph Supervising Officers	106	Progress of the Telephone and Telegraph Systems 7, 30, 45, 63, 82, 101, 113, 133, 147, 173, 191	191	Wrong Number Trouble: Its Causes and Remedies. An Operetta. By J. M. McMillan	129
Controlling the Trams	13	Public (The) and the Administration of the Telephone Service. By Sir A. M. Ogilvie	28	Wrong Number Trouble, The. By D. H. M. Bott	146

INDEX—continued.

	PAGE		PAGE		PAGE
Short Paragraphs.		Telegraph and Telephone Men.		Great Bazaar, The. By C. A. S. ... 122	
All-British Wireless Exhibition ...	54	Cotterell, Arthur Edgar ...	145	Kiosks. By W. H. G. ...	97
Automatic Telephones, Mr. Aitken's Third Volume ...	166	Edwards, Alfred William ...	125	Leeds P.O. v. Rotherham P.O. By L. C. ...	15
Automatic Telephones for Japan ...	182	Hainworth, William ...	167	Liar, The. By S. W. Leaver ...	220
Automatic Exchanges supplied by Siemens Bros. ...	202	Hidden, Ellis John ...	195	Man who "Sacked the Lot." The. By W. H. G. ...	219
Bolton Choral Society ...	56	Inglis, Robert ...	89	Rotherham Valley, A. By Jee Double You ...	55
Booth-Baudot Duplex Award ...	16	Jewell, G. R. W. ...	185	Speedwell. By C. P. ...	95
Britannic House Private Automatic Branch Exchange ...	153	Scott, John ...	73	Telephone Rhymes. By C.A.S. ... 142, 164, 204	
Call Box Amenities ...	75	Waite, Benjamin ...	207	Wrong Number Trouble. By J. M. McMillan ...	129
Cardiff Postal, Telegraph and Telephone Society ...	69				
Carlisle Amateur's Experience of the Aberdeen Broadcasting Station ...	45	Reviews.		Correspondence.	
Central Telegraph Office and Greyfriars Civil Service Opinion ...	24	Alternating Currents. By A. E. Clayton ...	100	<i>Direct Type Keyboards v. Tape Storage Perforators—</i>	
Civil Service Cross-Country Championship City Day Continuation School ...	113	Automatic Telephone Systems. By Wm. Aitken. Vol. II ...	12	J. W. Teare ...	130
Chile Telephone Extensions ...	54	Automatic Telephone Systems. By Wm. Aitken. Vol. III ...	161	Donald Murray ...	202
C.T.O. Library ...	122	Automatic Telephones. By F. A. Ellson ...	193	<i>Metal Storage Transmitters—</i>	
Dundee Automatic Exchanges ...	123	Appareils et Installations Téléphoniques. By Prof. E. Raynaud-Bonin ...	161	Donald Murray ...	117
Edinburgh Telegraph and Telephone Society ...	144	Electrolytic Rectifiers. By N. A. de Bruyne ...	193	Giovanni Miniotti ...	183
Electrical Mah Jong ...	220	Electrical Engineering Practice. By J. W. Meares ...	44	<i>Problem of the Telegraphs, The—</i>	
Empire Pageant Council ...	177	Electrical Measuring Instruments. By D. J. Bolton ...	31	"Improve" ...	162
G.P.O. Arts Club ...	7	Electrical Vibration Instruments. By Prof. A. E. Kennelly ...	218	E. J. Hidden ...	162
Golf ...	122, 163, 187	Elements of Automatic Telephony. By Arthur Crotch ...	101		
House of Pitman, The ...	166	Funk, Wochenschrift des Funkwesens ...	161	Personalia.	
Hull Postal, Telegraph and Telephone Society ...	16	Fortieth Milestone, The ...	118	18, 36, 56, 72, 87, 124, 144, 166, 184, 206, 224	
Industrial Welfare Conference ...	202	Handbook of Circuit Diagrams. By J. M. Heath ...	193	Presentations and Retirements.	
Italian—South American Cable ...	220	Inspection and Testing of Materials, &c. By F. L. Henley ...	100	Adams, F. C. B. ...	54
Listening in America ...	163	Introduction to Wireless Telegraphy and Telephony. By Prof. J. A. Fleming ...	44	Broughton, H. J. ...	69
Manchester Telegraph and Telephone Society ...	117	Kalender für den Deutschen Funkverkehr ...	101	Cotterell, A. E. ...	183
New Atlantic Cables ...	72	Legal Points for Ramblers. By A. Blair ...	12	Eady, Howard ...	171, 222
"No Progress with the Telephone" ...	7	Pitman's Radio Year Book, 1924 ...	82	Gifford, Brian ...	143
Northampton Polytechnic Institute ...	10	Pitman's Technical Primers. Electrical Insulation. By W. S. Flight ...	31	Hainworth, William ...	214
Opening of a Scottish Rural Exchange ...	222	Practical Electrician's Pocket Book, 1924 ...	82	Livermore, G. W. ...	77
Personal Touch, The ...	121	Principles and Practice of Wireless Transmission. By G. Parr ...	44	Mackenzie, Thomas ...	201
Post Office Telephone and Telegraph Society of London ...	16, 53, 63, 163	Téléphone à Stockholm, La. Par Anders Lignell ...	218	Mewburn, John ...	124
P.O. Total Abstinence Society ...	183			Pegden, W. V. ...	56
Radio Reviewed. By W. E. Earp ...	203	Hic et Ubique.		Stockens, E. E. ...	56
Revision of the Telephone Charges ...	181	8, 27, 46, 64, 81, 97, 114, 134, 154, 175, 194, 215		Waring, R. ...	221
Royal Visit to Marconi House ...	179	Verse.		Wrigley, J. ...	79
Shipping, Engineering and Machinery Exhibition ...	14	Digger, The. By F. C. (Hull) ...	40		
Sweden. Taxi-Cab Rank Telephones ...	179	Found Cord, The. By Hanwell ...	120	Obituary.	
Talk on Telephone Service, A ...	14			Allen, W. H. ...	69, 85
Western Electric Co.'s Public Address System ...	136			Audsley, R. B. M. ...	50
West Yorks Telephone Circle ...	141			Beeston, W. R. ...	124
" " Benevolent Fund ...	166			Dear, H. ...	47
Wireless Installations and Power Wires ...	181			Franey, J. A. ...	50
Wonders of Wireless ...	123			Hardy, Richard ...	124

THE
TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE
JOURNAL.

VOL. XI.

October 1924 — September 1925.

LONDON: G.P.O. NORTH, E.C.1.

INDEX TO VOL. XI.

PAGE		PAGE		PAGE
EDITORIALS.				
150	Aftermath, The	47	Engineering Research in the Post Office. By Capt. B. S. Cohen	3
65	And so on <i>ad Infinitum</i>	74	Evolution—not Revolution—in the Tele- phone Service	144, 167, 198, 220, 234
44	Change of Name	202	Fenny Stratford Telephone Repeater Station	125
196	East and West	103	Few Notes, A. By E. J. J. Johnson ...	123
26	Housing of Exchanges, The	51	Few Remarks, A. By A. E. Coombs ...	123
44	International View of the Telegraph Situation, An... ..	6	From an Old Press Cutting Book (The London Birmingham Trunk Line) ...	7, 31, 43, 70, 93, 111, 136, 160, 174, 195, 217, 242
88	Late Sir Andrew Ogilvie, The	96	German Postal Administration, Reform of	21, 37
88	Loss on the Telegraph Service, The ...	2	German Press at the London Conference, The	96
65	Progress in 1924	210, 232	History of the Transit and Terminal International Telegraph Rates, The. By J. J. T.	72
8	Telegraphs, the Telephones and the London Conference, The	27	Housing of Telephone Exchanges, The. By A. R. Kidner	138
8	Telephone Development of Europe, The	43, 69, 94, 102	Is Telephony Ousting Telegraphs? By J. J. T.	71
130	Telephone Expansion and Low Rates ...	60	Japanese Girls' Doll Festival	2
238	Telephone Progress in Europe	138	Lee's (Mr. John) Lecture to the Edinburgh Telegraph and Telephone Society ...	215
110	Triumph of the Message Rate, The	203	Local Radio Society Talk. By Alan Roberts	123
175	Wrong Numbers	117	London Engineering District Notes, 10, 163, 208	84, 106, 127, 147, 170, 193, 213, 240
		117	London Telephone Service Dinner ...	(See under N.)
		245	London Telephone Service Notes 16, 33, 57, 76, 98, 119, 140, 164, 184, 206, 230, 245	Telephone Development of Cities and Urban Districts with upwards of 1,000 Telephones. By W. H. Gunston
		9	Longest Through Telephone Circuit in the World—Chicago to Los Angeles	224
		188	Lure of the Advertisement, The. By Eustace Hare	15
		112	Main Underground Telegraph and Tele- phone Construction in Great Britain. By W. E. Twells	201
		225, 237	Making of a Telephonist, The. By M. A. Roach	151
		81	Manchester and East Lancashire District, Telephone Progress in	157
		3	Meucci and the Telephone. (See also Correspondence)	112
		85	Modern Telephone System for an Ancient City. (Strowger Automatic Tele- phones at York)	122
		178	Morse, the Pioneer. By J. Skinner ...	217
		95	Murray (Mr. Donald) on "The New Telegraphy." By A. P. O.	67
		11	New Anglo-Dutch Telephone Cable ...	208
		50	New Danish Invasion, A	
		2	New Swedish Telephone Rates	
		190, 212, 242	Notes on Telegraph Practice. By G. T. Archibald 58, 80, 104, 126, 142, 166, 190, 212, 242	
		161	"Daughters of the Night" (Telephone Film)	
		112	Underground Construction in Great Britain	
		122	Vocation of the Electrical Engineer. The By T. B. Johnson	
		217	Weston-super-Mare's New Telephone Exchange	
		67	We Telephonists (See "Talk of Many Things")	
		67	Wireless Telephony with Special Refer- ence to Broadcasting. By Capt. P. P. Eckersley	
		208	Ye Ancient Lights of Ye Telegraphs ...	
			Pan-European Conference in Paris, Con- clusions of the. (A German view) ...	
			Post Office (The) and Automatic Tele- phones. By Col. T. F. Purves 131, 144, 167, 198, 220, 234	
			"Private" Telegraph Offices. By A. A. Jayne	
			Probable Trend of Telegraph and Tele- phone Traffic Development. By J. Stuart Jones	
			Progress of the Telephone and Telegraph Systems 7, 31, 43, 70, 93, 111, 136, 160, 174, 195, 217, 242	
			Random Reflections; or, What can you Expect? By P. W. H. Maycock ...	
			Reform of German Postal Administration	
			Retrospect, A—Liverpool Traffic Section. By S. J. Swinnerton	
			Reunion of Old Chiefs of the National Telephone Company	
			Scientific Peddling. By J. L.	
			Swedish Telephone Rates, New	
			Subscribers' Visits to Exchanges. By G. J. Mackay	
			"Talk of Many Things" 12, 31, 52, 75, 97, 118, 139, 162, 180, 205, 227, 244	
			Telegraph and Telephone Statistics, Jan. 1 1923. By W. H. Gunston	
			Telegraph and Telephone Development. Probable Trend of	
			Telegraphic Memorabilia ... 4, 23, 39, 62, 84, 106, 127, 147, 170, 193, 213, 240	
			Telegraphic Practice, Notes on. (See under N.)	
			Telephone Development of Cities and Urban Districts with upwards of 1,000 Telephones. By W. H. Gunston	
			"They Always Stick"	
			Transit and Terminal International Tele- graph Rates, The History of. See "H."	
			Tunbridge Wells Telephone Call Boxes. By Rambler	
			Two Rival Telegraph Systems (Multiplex and Harmonic). By Donald Murray	
			Two Telephone Exchange Transfers possessing Unique Features. By J. O. Cooper	
			Underground Construction in Great Britain	
			Vocation of the Electrical Engineer. The By T. B. Johnson	
			Weston-super-Mare's New Telephone Exchange	
			We Telephonists (See "Talk of Many Things")	
			Wireless Telephony with Special Refer- ence to Broadcasting. By Capt. P. P. Eckersley	
			Ye Ancient Lights of Ye Telegraphs ...	

INDEX—continued.

PAGE	PAGE	PAGE
Telephone Men (and Women).		
Alsop, J. 165		
Cox, Agnes E. 187		
Graut, Francis Henry Symons 231		
Leech, William Thomas 101		
McConchie, William 1		
McFrey, R. 35		
Napier, William Heathcott Unwin 19		
Phillips, F. W. 121		
Purves, Col. Thomas Fortune, O.B.E. 79		
Simon, Leon 141		
Tyrrell, J. J. 209		
Wadley, Frank Talbot 57		
Short Paragraphs.		
Automatic Telephones in India 74		
Automatic Telephone Manufacturing Co.'s Dance 100		
Bowling Match, Blackburn 200		
Cardiff Telegraph, Telephone and Postal Society 34		
Edinburgh Telegraph and Telephone Society 36		
G.P.O. Players, The 138		
Golf 54, 137, 161, 167		
History of the Telephone in the United Kingdom 39		
Knight of the Burning Pestle, The 68		
Lectures on the Automatic Telephone (Strowger System) 94		
London Telephone Service Swimming Association 56		
Manchester Telegraph and Telephone Society 76		
Manchester Telephones v. Blackburn Telephones 246		
Mecca for a Humorist, A 39		
Murray, Mr. Donald (business acquired by Creed & Co. Ltd.) 219		
New Chairman of the Mersey and N.Wales (Liverpool) Centre of the I.E.E. 30		
Post Office Relief Fund 244		
Swiss order for British firm 228		
Western Electric at the British Empire Exhibition 18		
West Yorkshire Telephone Discussion Circle 32		
Wireless Telegraphy and Signalling Bill 118		
Hic et Ubique.		
9, 26, 45, 66, 89, 111, 129, 175, 196, 218, 238		
Verse.		
Avenue Bazaar, The. By C. A. S. 100		
Glazal. By W. H. Gunston 71		
Wireless, Thunderstorms, Murder, and Quarrelsomeness. By W. H. Gunston 239		
<i>Vide also "Talk of Many Things" for "Accommodation at Hop," by G. M. Turner, p. 32; "The Automatic Operator," by Francisco, p. 53; "The Song of the Operator," by Francisco, p. 98; "L.T.S. Annual Dinner," p. 118; "When I talk to Stockholm, &c.," p. 181; "Further Education," by G. M. Turner, p. 206, "A Telephone Exchange," by D. M. G. Clifford, p. 245, and Limericks, pp. 32, 139, 162, 228</i>		
Correspondence.		
<i>Future of the Telegraphs, The—</i>		
J. J. Boyle 87		
J. J. Boyle 163		
<i>History of the Telephone (Baldwin's)—</i>		
Arthur E. Cotterell 163		
A. R. Bennett 184		
A. R. Bennett 237		
<i>London and Birmingham Trunk Line—</i>		
Arthur E. Cotterell 30		
<i>Meucci and the Telephone—</i>		
Arthur E. Cotterell 34		
<i>Speeding up the Telegraphs—</i>		
Donald Murray 119		
Reviews.		
Electrical Design of Overhead Power Transmission Lines. By W. E. Taylor and R. E. Neale 46		
History of the Telephone in the United Kingdom. By F. G. Baldwin 135		
History of the Telephones and Telegraphs in Uruguay. By V. M. Berthold 239		
Introduction to the Strowger System of Automatic Telephony. By H. H. Harrison 30		
Main Currents of Social and Industrial Change. By T. G. Williams 135		
Mechanical Design of Overhead Transmission Lines. Painton 161		
Outline of Automatic Telephony. By Wm. Aitken 219		
Radio Year Book 59		
St. Martin's le Grand (July, 1925) 219		
Story of Broadcasting, The. By A. R. Burrows 83		
Telephone Communication. By C. A. Wright and A. F. Puchstein 173		
Textbook of Wireless Telegraphy and Telephony. By W. Greenwood 241		
Personalia.		
16, 34, 56, 78, 120, 164, 186, 208, 230, 246		
Presentations.		
Allan, G. L. 160		
Anderson, R. E. 244		
Barelay, Mr. 78		
Brown, E. 174		
Brown, F. J. 109		
Cockrem, P. R. 15		
Coombs, A. E. 160		
Davison, R. L. 140		
Frost, F. J. 200		
Gillett, Miss 154		
MacDonald, G. A. 134		
Melville, D. 50		
Parry, J. L. 197		
Parsons, G. R. 201		
Porter, W. I. 186		
Ruddock, A. E. 116		
Shakespeare, Miss M. R. 186		
Spence, P. J. 93		
State, G. F. 181		
Taffs, Miss A. I. 140		
Wickham, T. W. 183		
Williamson, E. 71		
Obituary.		
Adams, G. R. 7		
Heaviside, Oliver 102		
Ogilvie, Sir Andrew, K.B.E. 66		
Wollin, Herr 239		

THE
TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE
JOURNAL.

VOL. XII.

October 1925 — September 1926.

LONDON: G.P.O. NORTH, E.C.1.

INDEX TO VOL. XII.

	PAGE
EDITORIALS.	
Anglo-Continental Telephone Services ...	104
"Charles, His Friend" ...	128
European Telephone Progress ...	266
Fifty Years of the Telephone ...	152
Great Strike, The ...	196
Half-Millionth Telephone in London, The	244
1925 ...	82
Praise for the Telephone Service ...	12
Rate of Telephone Progress, The ...	174
Rugby ...	82
Telegraph Statistics ...	104
Telephone Publicity ...	58
Telephone as Friend, The ...	220
Touting by Telephone ...	34

HIC ET UBIQUE.

13, 34, 58, 83, 105, 128, 153, 179, 196, 221, 244, 266

PRINCIPAL ARTICLES.

Admiralty : Large Automatic Telephone Exchange "Cut-Over" ...	135
American Telephone & Telegraph Company : Annual Report of the ...	184
Automatics and the Subscriber. By C. W. Muirhead ...	10
Automatic Telephones in East Anglia ...	157
Automatic Training School, The ...	168
Bank Exchange, The Passing of ...	215
Bristol Telephone Group ...	133
British Towns and their American and Colonial Namesakes ...	271
Broadcasting Committee of 1925 ...	204
Cable Ship, The (<i>Domina</i>) ...	240
Conversion of Shrewsbury Exchange to Automatic Working ...	123
Cricketer : Secretary's Office Inter-Branch Competition ...	254 272
Day's Safari with a Telegraph Inspector in Tanganyika. By Chas. H. Pook ...	76
Departmental Technical Examination, The. By Andrew Fraser ...	64
Development Studies. By W. E. Gauntlett ...	161
Early Indo-European Telegraph Stations. By W. F. T. ...	19
Electrical Interference with Radio Reception ...	99

	PAGE
Fifty Years' Telephone Progress. By W. Day ...	85, 101
French View of the <i>Journal</i> , A ...	59
Future of Telegraphy, The. By G. T. Archibald ...	226, 251
General Strike, The. How the London Telephone Service answered the Call. By M. C. P. ...	188
" " " The Central Telegraph Office and the ...	195
" " " The Provincial Telephone Service and the ...	216
Glasgow Telephone Service. By A. E. Coombs ...	210
Hare, Mr. Eustace : Retirement of ...	134
" " " : Death of ...	265
Inland Telegraph Service, Recent Developments in the ...	106
Internal Circulation of the Central Telegraph Office—Phonograms. By Mary T. Tynan ...	154, 176
International Telegraph Conference : Telephone Notes. By H. G. T. ...	32
Random Remarks. By F. H. S. G. ...	48
Some Impressions of. By E. E. S. ...	88
The Work of the Paris. By F. Strong ...	96, 118
Sidelights on the . . . By John Lee	129
"London 500,000." By B. R. M. ...	243
London Telephone and Telegraph Society	20, 75, 171
London Telephone Service. By M. C. Pink ...	36, 50
London Telephone Service Notes, 24, 46, 72, 93, 114, 140, 162, 184, 205, 232, 253, 276	
Multiplex Telegraph Circuits in New Zealand. By J. J. T. ...	17
Notes on Telegraph Practice. By G. T. Archibald, 4, 41, 62, 74, 100, 121, 146, 166, 192, 213, 235, 258	
Opening of the Trunk Extension to Wick	181
Our Neighbour—St. Bartholomews. By A. W. Edwards ...	159
Passing of Bank Exchange, London, The. By T. A. B. ...	215
Paris Telegraph Conference, <i>vide</i> "International."	
Philip Reis : A Forgotten Genius. By J. Skinner ...	68
Phonograms. See "Internal Circulation of C.T.O." ...	176
Post Office and Automatic Telephones, The. By Col. T. F. Purves ...	13, 26
Post Office Engineer and His Work, The. By T. B. Johnson ...	2
Post Office and its Contacts, The. By A. F. Waldegrave ...	190
Praying-Wheel for London, The. By W. Aitken ...	18

	PAGE
Progress in 1925 ...	138
Progress of the Telephone System 23, 35, 56, 90, 103, 134, 151, 179, 197, 229, 243, 265	
Provincial Course at the Engineer-in-Chief's School of Automatic Telephony. By BM BS9E ...	241
Provincial Telephone Service and the General Strike, The ...	216
Recent Developments in the Inland Telegraph Service. By L. Simon ...	106
Rugby Radio Station of the British Post Office, The. By E. H. Shaughnessy, 198, 221, 245, 268	
Russia, Electrical Communication in ...	267
Schoolboy's Escape at Rugby Wireless Station ...	226
Shrewsbury Exchange. Conversion to Automatic Working ...	123
Sidelights on the International Telegraph Conference, 1925. By John Lee ...	129
Some Thoughts arising from the Telephone Jubilee. By Arthur E. Cotterell ...	234
Special Event, A. By G. E. Lane ...	20
Strowger Automatic Telephones in South Devon ...	126
Summer Conference of the Institute of Public Administration. The ...	204
Talk of Many Things (We Telephonists), 21, 44, 69, 92, 116, 136, 160, 182, 206, 230, 252, 274	
Talking with America. By J. L. ...	144
Tanganyika, A Day's Safari with a Telegraph Inspector in ...	76
Telegraphic Memorabilia. By J. J. T., 7, 29, 53, 79, 109, 124, 147, 172, 192, 217, 239, 262	
Telegraph Practice, Notes on. (<i>Vide</i> under N.)	
Telephone Development of the World at the End of 1924. By W. H. Gunston	77, 97
Telephone Kiosks, No. 2. By F. P. M.	237
Telephone Notes 21, 43, 57, 90, 112, 132, 229, 253, 271	
Telephone Progress in the Liverpool District ...	32
Telephone Service of Tokio, The ...	120
Telephone Service, The. By A. E. Coombs ...	144
Telephone System of the United States, The. By Wm. Day ...	169
Topical Exhibit, A ...	261
Transatlantic Telephony. By Major A. G. Lee ...	150
Typing from Sounder. By W. T. L. ...	180
United States. The Telephone System of the ...	169
We Telephonists. (<i>Vide</i> "Talk of Many Things.")	
Wick Trunk Extension. Opening of ...	181
"Wireless" Anniversary ...	23

INDEX—continued.

PAGE	INDEX—continued.	PAGE	PAGE
<p>Wireless Telegraphy and its Application to Ship and Shore Work. By Commander F. G. Loring ... 60, 86</p> <p>Work of the Paris Telegraph Conference, 1925. By F. Strong ... 96, 118</p> <p>Telegraph and Telephone Men and Women.</p> <p>Clarke, Miss A. C. ... 73</p> <p>Coombs, A. E. ... 233</p> <p>Deane, H. F. E. ... 257</p> <p>Edmonds, J. F. ... 1</p> <p>Jayne, Lieut.-Col. A. A. ... 25</p> <p>Johnson, T. B. ... 187</p> <p>Loring, F. G. Commander ... 47</p> <p>Medlyn, W. J. ... 95</p> <p>Pink, M. C. ... 117</p> <p>Prout, T. A. ... 143</p> <p>Simpson, W. M. ... 209</p> <p>Stewart, J. D. W. ... 165</p> <p>Short Paragraphs.</p> <p>Automatic Telephones for a County Department at Preston ... 151</p> <p>Anglo-German Telephone Service ... 232</p> <p>Booth-Baudot Award, I.P.O.E.E. ... 113</p> <p>C. B. Clay Football Cup. Final ... 229</p> <p>Central Telegraph Office Library ... 120</p> <p>Civil Service Arts Council ... 273</p> <p>Coatbridge. Opening of New Telephone Exchange at ... 127</p> <p>Codoc. By J. L. ... 111</p> <p>C.T.O. Golfers and Bowlers ... 151</p> <p>Early Telephone, An ... 183</p> <p>Echoes of the Strike ... 225</p> <p>Edinburgh and District Postal Telegraph and Telephone Society ... 67</p> <p>Football: Blackburn v. Manchester ... 94</p> <p>Golf: A.G.D. v. Secretary's Office ... 162</p> <p>India. Trunk Telephone Lines in ... 158</p> <p>Liverpool Staff Reunion ... 142</p> <p>London Telephone Directory ... 229</p> <p>Manchester, Telephone Progress at ... 225</p> <p>Morkrum Kleinschmidt Agency ... 183</p> <p>Newcastle P.O. Bowling Club ... 135</p> <p>Radio Association ... 33</p> <p>Royal Corps of Signals' Dinner ... 189</p> <p>Russian Telephone Development ... 16</p> <p>Special Event, A (Torquay) ... 67</p> <p>Sound carried by Light ... 169</p> <p>"Tilly of Bloomsbury" ... 183</p> <p>Underground Call Offices ... 261</p>	<p>Wandering Waves... 178</p> <p>West Yorkshire Telephones ... 28</p> <p>Western Electric to become "Standard" ... 28</p> <p>Wireless Birthday, A ... 273</p> <p>Verse.</p> <p>Aut-Telephony. By W. H. G. ... 105</p> <p>Another Echo. By W. M. G. ... 252</p> <p>Avenue. Poor Children's Tea ... 114</p> <p>Avenue Nightmare. By C. A. S. ... 182</p> <p>Bank. By Tim O'Rous ... 230</p> <p>Edgware. By Tim O'Rous ... 208</p> <p>" By Val I. Ant ... 273</p> <p>Ghazal of the Petulant-Pugnacious. By W. H. Gunton ... 267</p> <p>Hello Girl, The. By C. A. S. ... 206</p> <p>Learner's Song ... 69</p> <p>Reply to Edgware. By Tim Ider ... 232</p> <p>Sermonettes. P.D'A. ... 41, 70, 92</p> <p>Song of the Busy-Back. By V. M. G. Clifford ... 252</p> <p>Those Chimes. By G. Turner ... 274</p> <p>To My Colleagues. By Gertrude M. Turner ... 182</p> <p>"Ye Who on the Public Telephones Embark" ... 196</p> <p>Correspondence.</p> <p>Automatic Telephones. H. H. Harrison ... 229</p> <p>Duplex Telephony. John Skinner ... 81</p> <p>Fifty Years' Telephone Progress—Arthur E. Cotterell ... 105</p> <p>Typing from Sounder—W. T. George ... 205</p> <p>Wolverhampton Exchange. Arthur E. Cotterell ... 271</p> <p>Reviews.</p> <p>Broadcast Reception in Theory and Practice. By J. Lawrence Pritchard ... 179</p> <p>Conférence Télégraphique Internationale de Paris (1925). By Th. le Darric ... 180</p> <p>Elementary Electrical Engineering. By O. R. Randall ... 228</p> <p>Local Storage Battery, The. By H. G. Brown ... 260</p> <p>Loud Speakers, Their Construction, &c. By C. M. R. Balbi ... 191</p> <p>Radio Engineering. By J. H. Reynier ... 89</p> <p>Talks about Wireless. By Sir Oliver Lodge ... 35</p> <p>Transmission Circuits for Telephone Communication. By K. S. Johnson ... 56</p> <p>Wireless Valve Transmitters. By W. James ... 17</p> <p>Wörterbuch der Elektrischen Nachrichtentechnik. By O. Sattelberg ... 153</p>	<p>Personalia.</p> <p>24, 72, 142, 164, 186, 205, 232, 276.</p> <p>Presentations, Promotions and Retirements.</p> <p>Allen, S. O., Southampton ... 139</p> <p>Brodie, W., Middlesbrough ... 66</p> <p>Brown, J. S., Southampton ... 181</p> <p>Burstall, F. C., Liverpool ... 135</p> <p>Crompton, Capt. C., Glasgow ... 94</p> <p>Davidson, W., Aberdeen ... 232</p> <p>Dean, J. W., Gloucester ... 18</p> <p>Edwards, A. W., C.T.O. ... 234</p> <p>Gauntlett, W. E. ... 265</p> <p>Gwyther, L., Newcastle ... 142</p> <p>Hann, T., Middlesbrough ... 256</p> <p>Howe, W., Southampton ... 90</p> <p>Kitchen, H., Newcastle ... 91</p> <p>Kidd, A. M., Nottingham ... 18</p> <p>Lees, Miss F., Manchester ... 70</p> <p>Lucas, F., Leicester ... 9</p> <p>Macfee, J., Edinburgh ... 67, 91</p> <p>Magrath, J. L., Edinburgh ... 18</p> <p>Marshall, H., Leicester ... 24</p> <p>May, A. L., Gloucester ... 183</p> <p>Meikleham, Mr., Scotland, West ... 232</p> <p>Oliver, W. H., Nottingham ... 181</p> <p>Ransley, C. G., Guildford ... 103</p> <p>Scott, A. C., Aberdeen ... 226</p> <p>Smith, Archer, Manchester ... 94</p> <p>Smith, S. J., Canterbury ... 19, 42</p> <p>Stretche, T. E. P., Preston ... 159</p> <p>Thyne, W., Sheffield ... 112</p> <p>Tucker, R. U., Birmingham ... 135</p> <p>Tyler, H., Leeds ... 242</p> <p>Urwin, J. P., Newcastle ... 137</p> <p>Wheeler, B. A., London Telephone Service ... 20</p> <p>Whitelaw, J. T., Blackburn ... 139</p> <p>Willis, Chas., Newcastle ... 158</p> <p>Valentine, W. A., C.B.E. ... 259</p> <p>Obituary.</p> <p>Arrowsmith, C. F. ... 43</p> <p>Claxton, Mrs. R. Heywood ... 56</p> <p>Cryer, Miss H. (Lancaster) ... 32</p> <p>Dunstall, A. E. (Brighton) ... 272</p> <p>Davidge, E. (Manchester) ... 89</p> <p>Gamlin, Miss A. (City) ... 208</p> <p>Hidden, E. J. ... 193</p> <p>Livingston, Jas. (Leeds) ... 272</p> <p>Rawlings, A. H. ... 164</p> <p>Swithinbank, J. W. ... 181</p> <p>Webb, F. E. H. ... 126</p>	

THE
TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE
JOURNAL.

VOL. XIII.

October 1926 — September 1927.

LONDON: G.P.O. NORTH, E.C.1.

INDEX TO VOL. XIII.

	PAGE
EDITORIALS.	
Another Year's Progress	68
Competition	134
Empire Broadcasting	178
Farther and Farther Still	48
First Public Transatlantic Message, The	91
Great Event, A	90
John Lee	202
Last Two Counties, The	10
"Late Lamented," The	248
"Look on this Picture and on That" ...	30
Message from Sir Evelyn Murray ...	90
Mr. Dalzell's Retirement	226
Phantasy and Fact	69
"Pirates"	68
Rural Development	156
Suggestions and Awards	48
Telephone Development of Large Towns	178
Truth and Fiction	203
Uses of Statistics, The	112
Wireless Broadcasting	30
HIC ET UBIQUE.	
10, 31, 49, 69, 91, 112, 156, 179, 208, 227,	248
PRINCIPAL ARTICLES.	
About Development, By H. Morgan ...	133
Anglo-American Telephone Service, The, By W. C. Griffith	93
Anglo-Dutch Cable, Laying of the Third	3
Annual Report of Telegraphs & Telephones:	
Manchester District	77
West Yorkshire District	88
Liverpool and District	99
Sheffield District	109
London Area	111
Art of Supervision, The, By J. W. Kennedy	169
Arthur Bingham Walkley, By John Lee	32
Automatic Telephones at Cheltenham ...	34
Automatic Telephony, By C. W. Brown 125, 147, 171, 193, 219, 242	242
Broadcasting and the Telephone Service, By T.T.U.	73
Broadcasting Organisation, The New ...	50

	PAGE
Canada, Opening of Beam Wireless Service to	33
Cheltenham Automatic Exchange	34
Chesterfield Automatic Area	36
Contract Officer, The, By J. R.	87
Coventry Automatic System	53, 74
Dalzell, R. A., C.B., C.B.E., By John Scott	228
Design and Erection of Post Office Buildings, By H. G. Warren 113, 135, 155	155
"Do It Now," By J. W. W.	238
Edinburgh Automatic Exchange	22
Elimination of the Effects of Atmospheric in Wireless Telegraphy by the System "Baudot-Verdan," By E. Phillips	249
Expansion of the Anglo-Continental Telephone Services, By W. H. Gunston	7
Fatal Accident at Rugby Wireless Station	40
Forward Movement in Telephones, The, By W. L. Eveleigh	161
G.P.O. Players, The	20, 57
Germany, Telegraphs and Telephones in	53
Germany's Train Telegraphs and Tele- phones	216
How it Struck a Contemporary	32
Ideal Home Exhibition, By Oli-Daile ...	146
Imperial Wireless Services: The Beam Service	2
International Consultative Committee of Telegraph Communications, First Meeting of	43
Interviewing, By J. R.	128
Laying of the Third Anglo-Dutch Cable, The	3
Lee, Mr. John: see "Retirement" ...	
"London Calling," By W. F. T.	168
London Directory, The, By J. F. S. ...	132
London Postal Service, The, By Lt.-Col. W. T. Brain	180, 209, 229
Looking Backward, By W. E. Gauntlett	132
Machine Telegraphy, By A. P. Ogilvie	108, 139
Man who Lets in the New Year, The, By J. L.	82
National Radio Exhibition	11
New Broadcasting Organisation, The ...	50
Notes on Telegraph Practice, By G. T. Archibald	5, 24, 42, 70, 80
On Speaking to New York, By J. F. S.	102
Opening of Beam Wireless Service to Canada	33
Overseas Communications, By J. J. T.	60
Overseas Communication, its Origin and Development, By H. G. Sellars	66, 95

	PAGE
Phonogram Equipment, By D. H. Thomson	104
Post Office Telephone and Telegraph Society of London	15, 87
Reduction of Trunk Charges in America	36
Retirement of Mr. John Lee:	
From a Staff side point of view, By A. C. Winyard	203
Appreciations by Foreign and Colonial Colleagues:	
E. Broin	204
Otto Arendt	205
Gneme	206
H. P. Brown, J. McMillan and Col. Shreeve	207
Secretary's Office Cricket Club ...	214, 257
Service Advertising, By H. T. Stephens	168
Sheffield Automatic Telephones	163
South African Telephones Thirty Six Years Ago	23
Telefunken-Carolus-Siemens System of Telephotography	102
Telegraph and Telephone Development in Australia, By H. P. Brown	231
Telegraph Service—Past and Present, The, By A. W. Edwards	240
Telephone Development of the World in 1925, By W. H. Gunston	60, 81
Telephone Development of Towns con- taining upwards of 100,000 Inhabi- tants, By W. H. Gunston	176
Telephone Tide, The, By Horace Dive	106, 137
Telephones at the End of 1926	249
Telephony from Various Viewpoints, By Agnes E. Cox	157, 192
Transatlantic Telephony, Opening Cere- mony, By Lieut.-Col. A. G. Lee ...	92
Transatlantic Telephony, By M. C. P.	124
Upton Telephone Exchange (Birkenhead)	37
Walkley, Arthur Bingham	32
"When we get Tandem," By J. W. Shepherd	224
Wireless Broadcasting	9
Telegraphic Memorabilia 12, 26, 45, 62, 83, 116, 129, 151, 183, 198, 216, 251	
London Telephone Service Notes 19, 39, 58, 78, 100, 121, 143, 165, 187, 210, 238, 255	
We Telephonists (Talk of Many Things) 17, 38, 56, 76, 97, 120, 142, 164, 189, 213, 235, 247	
Telephone Notes 18, 35, 55, 76, 89	
Progress of the Telephone System 8, 29, 52, 73, 89, 115, 133, 163, 177, 201, 237, 254	

THE
TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE
JOURNAL.

VOL. XIV.

October 1927 — September 1928.

LONDON : G.P.O. NORTH, E.C.1.

INDEX TO VOL. XIV.

PAGE		PAGE		PAGE	
EDITORIALS.					
60	"Automatics"	222	Creed & Co.'s Telegraph Works. By J. J. T.	192	Post Wire, The. By "Guide, Page 96"
204	Beyond the Pillars of Hercules	160	Determination and Distribution of Time The. By F. Addey	89, 111, 136	Press Telegram Work. By J. Newlands
156	Cascades of Nonsense	174	East to West. By J. H. Ramsay	82	Progress of the Overseas Telephone Services in 1927
180	Development Studies	277	Economics: Fantastic and Otherwise. By E. J. Johnson	11, 28, 59, 89, 107, 131, 162, 199, 229, 251, 279	Progress of the Telephone System
228	Doxology	45, 62	Fifty Years with Telephone Pioneers. By T. A. Prout	229	Publicity. By B. Waite
84	Eventful Year, An	2	German Foreign Telegraph System, Reconstruction of	2	Reconstruction of the German Foreign Telegraph System after the War. By Walter Krause
274	Idleness of the Wise, The	174	Gloom about Telegrams, The. (From the <i>Manchester Guardian</i>)	146	Recovering the Waste. By E. J. Johnson
156	Recovering the Waste	59	G.P.O. Players Dramatic Society in "R.U.R."	254	Recovering the Waste (Prize Papers): By F. J. Lane
36	Retirement of Mr. John Scott	140	G.P.O. Players Dramatic Society in "The Chinese Puzzle"	255	By Margaret J. Clement
108	Rural Telephone Systems	162	Hardman-Lever Report on Inland Telegraphs. (See also under "Postmaster-General")	237	Retired Postal Workers' Association
132	Ships that Pass in the Night	197	Headquarters. By R. C. Atkins	250	Rochdale Automatic Area, Notes on
37	Sins of Bureaucracy, The	268	Help! By W. F. T.	250	Routine Testing and Why we do it? By G. Pybus
252	Telegraph and Telephone Working and its Critics	58	Holborn Automatic Exchange, Birth of	88	Sheffield Police Boxes
12	Telegraph Development	66	Holborn Automatic Exchange	267	Sloane Automatic Exchange
85	Telephones of the World, The	262	Imperial Wireless and Cable Conference	237	Some Amateur Theatricals. By J. W. W.
156	Two Voices, The	194	Instruction of Subscribers in Automatic Working. By J. D. Pettigrew	147	Spain's New Telephone System. By Maurice K. McGrath
HIC ET UBIQUE.					
12, 37, 60, 85, 109, 133, 157, 180, 204, 228, 253, 274		266	International Telecommunications and Foreign Languages. By J. J. T.	205	Staff Meetings and their Bearing on the Service. By A. E. Coombs
PRINCIPAL ARTICLES.					
38	Anglo-Canadian Telephone Service	171	International Telephone Services. By H. W. Camp	86, 109	Telegraph and Telephone Finance. By Sir Henry Bunbury
114	Annual Report of the Perivale on the Peak Telephone District	220	Lectures and Demonstrations on the Telephone Service. By A. E. Coombs	3	Telegraph Service, The—Past and Present. By A. W. Edwards
100	Artists Grave and Gay in the C.T.O.	184	Leicester Automatic Scheme. By G. P. and W. K. M.	19	Telegraphs of South Africa. By E. Egleton
4, 29, 51	Automatic Telephony. By C. W. Brown	163	Mayfair. By C. W. M.	235	Telephone in the West of Scotland, The
196	Automatic Underground Cable-Layer, An. By J. J. T.	17	Modern Central Telegraph Office at Zaragoza. By Estan Rodriguez	28	Telephones and a Revolution. By H. A. H.
198	Back to Handwriting Again. (From the <i>Economist</i>)	123	Notes on Rochdale Automatic Telephone Area	113	Telephone Development Association
58	Birth of Holborn Automatic Exchange, The. By H. D.	68	Old Times. By W. T. L.	74	Telephone Development of the World at Dec. 31, 1926. By W. H. Gunston
10	Bloomsbury and its Kiosks. By C. W. M.	21	On a Visit to Tandem. By J. F. S.	181	Telephone Development Studies: By H. J. Maclure
282	Brief Chronology for Students of Telegraphs, Telephones, and Posts. By Harry G. Selars 43, 63, 91, 104, 129, 179, 212, 238, 282	33	Our Telephone Service from Within. By A. E. Coombs	251	By E. Errington
119, 141	Brighton Automatic Transfer: Visiting the Subscribers. By G. H. Calcott	259	Party Lines	128	Telephone Progress Reports: London, Liverpool, and Manchester Districts
231	Brighton Automatic System. By A. C. France	230	Permalloy: The Latest Step in the Evolution of the Loading Coil. By Frederick L. Rhodes	74	Television. By J. W. W.
170	Busy-Tone Records. By W. F. T.	242	Possibilities of a Transcontinental Long-Distance Telephone Service between Europe and Asia, The	218	Tourist Trophy Races, The. By C. H. Haycocks
93	Chief of the Canadian Pacific Telegraph System. By Keith Morris	250	Postmaster-General on Broadcasting, The	122	Transatlantic Telephone Service (Joint Session of London and New York Institutions of Electrical Engineers). By W. C. G.
257	Concerning Waste: The Value of Segregation (Prize Paper). By H. B. Carroll	244	Postmaster-General on the Telegraphs and the Hardman-Lever Committee, The	242	Transcontinental Telephone Service between Europe and Asia, Possibilities of
123	Conversion of Nottingham Area to Automatic Working	88	Washington Conference, The. By F. W. P.	276	Waste. By W. E. G.
		99	What's in an Exchange Name? By H. C. Corner	133, 158	Working of the International Telephone Services. By H. G. Trayfoot
		17	Zaragoza Telegraph Office		

INDEX—continued.

	PAGE
Telegraphic Memorabilia	14, 39, 54, 77, 101, 125, 152, 175, 200, 224, 246, 269
London Telephone Service Notes	24, 48, 71, 96, 120, 142, 168, 191, 210, 236, 264, 281
We Telephonists (Talk of Many Things)	23, 45, 69, 95, 116, 143, 165, 190, 211, 234, 261, 279
Glasgow Telephone Notes	143, 167, 189, 208, 233, 263, 280
Liverpool Telephone Notes	189, 209, 232
Newcastle-on-Tyne Notes	209
Shorter Paragraphs.	
Aberdeen Notes	233
Anglo-Continental and Transatlantic Services Extensions (and <i>vide</i> <i>Hic et Ubique passim</i>)	9, 115
Booth-Baudot Award	115
Broadcasting the Grand National in America	183
Civil Service Dramatic Society	205
"Codoc" and "Merrie England" at the Kings Hall	35
C.T.O. Pensioners	115
C.T.O. Library	151
Clay, C. B., Football Challenge Cup	212
Early Days of the Telephone	9
Fifty Years with Telephone Pioneers	35
"G.P.O. Players" Dramatic Society	9, 99
Guildford (Cricket)	11
"Holborn Calling"	170
Hop Exchange Sunshine Fund	20
Informal Meetings of London Traffic Officers	232
Kew Again!	233
Nottingham University College Automatic Telephone Exchange	260
"Phone-Phobia"	114
Pitman's Dictionary of Industrial Administration	130
P.O. Telephone & Telegraph Society of London	59, 87, 115, 141, 157, 189, 276
Reduce Telephone Charges for Anglo-Continental Calls	59
Relay Automatic Telephone Co., Ltd.	13
Rochdale New Post Office, Opening of	117
Rural Telephones in Saskatchewan	140
St. John Ambulance Assn. P.O. Centre Secretary's Office Cricket Club	67 72

	PAGE
Sheffield Telephone District	237
Strowger Automatic Telephone Bulletins	261
Telephone and Illiterates, The	57
Voice Frequency Telegraphy	141
Telegraph and Telephone Men and Women.	
Birchall, W. R.	217
Booth, Lieut.-Col. A. C.	25
Bourdeaux, Capt. H. F.	73
Clough, A. L.	1
Currall, P. F.	97
Elliott, J. R. M.	49
Gomersall, E.	265
Lee, Lieut.-Col. A. G.	169
Millar, Crawford J.	145
Miller, David	193
O'Shaughnessy, F. S. J.	121
Waldegrave, A. J.	241
Obituary.	
Alsop, Vincent	268
Bennett, A., Rosling	195
Clough, W. S., Manchester	20
Gould, W. W., Gloucester	151
Howieson, D. H., Newcastle	114
Rentell, Sidney	61
Sturman, W., Leicester	20
Presentations, Promotions and Retirements.	
Barclay, A. L. (Preston)	163
BARNES, D. J. (York)	183
Beak, F. J. (Stores Dept.)	188
Benton, A. M. (Aberdeen)	42
Clark, A. J. (S. Wales)	21
Clutterbuck, F. W. A. (Manchester)	261
Edward, Geo. (Reading)	188
Findley, G. F.	273
HALEY, A. C.	188
Hickish, H. C., Southampton	32
Hill, Rowland (Scotland, West)	235
Huggins, F. H., Southampton	106
Kemp, A., York	183

	PAGE
LAMB, A. RAMSAY	122
LEE, JOHN	18
McFadden, S. F.	231
MACLEAN, ALLAN	93
MATTINSON, W. A.	195
Murray, J. E. (Leeds)	236
RODGER, T.	130
Turner, J. H. (Preston)	211
Vaughan, S. R. (Middlesbrough)	209
Waterson, J. K. (Evesham)	11
Reviews.	
<i>British Freshwater Algae.</i> By G. S. West and F. E. Fritsch	208
<i>Cable and Wireless Communications of the World, The.</i> By F. J. Brown	107
<i>Call Indicator System of Automatic Telephony.</i> By A. G. Freestone	140
<i>Easy Lessons in Wireless.</i> By R. W. Hutchinson	13
<i>Electrical Engineering Economics.</i> By D. J. Bolton	183
<i>Elements of Telephone Transmission</i> By H. H. Harrison	107
<i>Exponential's Made Easy.</i> By M. E. J. Cheury de Bray	208
<i>History of Radio-Telegraphy and Telephony.</i> By G. G. Blake	140
<i>Intermediate Electricity and Magnetism.</i> By R. A. Houston	207
<i>Letters to an Absentee Director.</i> By John Lee	281
<i>Practical Electrician's Handbook.</i> (Rentell.)	140
<i>Principles of Radio Communication.</i> By J. H. Morecroft	83
<i>Principles of Electric Power Transmission by Alternating Currents.</i> By H. Waddicor	183
<i>Telephone and Power Transmission.</i> By R. Bradfield and W. J. John	244
<i>Television for the Home.</i> By Ronald F. Tiltman	53
<i>Wireless Direction Finding.</i> By R. Keen	83
<i>Wireless Principles and Practice.</i> By L. S. Palmer	208
Correspondence.	
<i>Advertising the Telephone Service—</i> J. M. Shackleton	235
<i>Baudot-Verdan—</i> H. H. Harrison	18
<i>Japanese Appreciation of Mr. Lee—</i> S. Hiroshima	68

THE
TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE
JOURNAL.

VOL. XV.

October 1928 — September 1929.

INDEX TO VOL. XV.

EDITORIALS.	PAGE	EDITORIALS.	PAGE	EDITORIALS.	PAGE
Call Office Development	156	Conference of the Telegraph Union. By J. L.	22	No-Delay Basis Trunk and Junction Services. By C. W. Davies	42
Comedy and Tragedy	113	Commission of Enquiry into the Organisation and Methods of the American Telegraph Companies—Recommendations	151	Numbers. By T. SV5	234
Correspondents, Candlesticks, and Trombones	134	Contract Manager's Stray Notes, A. By J. P. Urwin	93	Outlook, The. By G. E. N.	175
European and American Telephone Conditions	90	Contract Officer and the Calling Rate, The. By R. S. Grosvenor	171	Paying the Penalty for Low Telephone Rates	152
Extension Stations	200	Defence of the Telegraphs, A. (T. E. Herbert)	187	Personal Telephone Service. By W. C. G. R. S. Grosvenor	213
German View of American Trunk Rates, A	221	Educating the Public in Automatics. By W. H. M. W.	153	Personality and the Calling Rate. By R. S. Grosvenor	3
Marvellous and the Familiar, The	50	Fire in the Embankment Subway, London	9	Picture Telegraphy. By J. J. T.	174
Motor Cars and Telephones	50	G.P.O. Players' Dramatic Society :		Prague Conference, The. By F. W. P.	182
Post Office Guide, The	112	"Outward Bound"	48	Primrose Exchange	178
Talking to People Abroad	30	"Jugged Heirs"	48	Ratio of Lines to Stations. By W. F. T.	198
Talking to People Abroad and At Home	220	Hendon R.A.F. Display	218	Reading Industries Exhibition Telephone Stand. By F. S. Lane	49
Telegraphs Again, The	70	How to Improve the Telegraph Service :		Reception from Sounder by Typewriter. By W. T. L.	244
Telegraphic Matters	31	I—By a Telegraphist in the Central Telegraph Office	82	Retirement of Mr. McIlroy. By J. G. H.	140
Telegraph Topics	180	II—By a Sorting Clerk and Telegraphist at a Provincial Office	102	Round Cornwall House. By C. W. M.	11
Telephones in Relation to Prosperity and Intelligence	10	III—By a Central Telegraph Office Overseer	126	Rural Automatic Exchange, The. By H. E. P.	172
To our Local Contributors	180	IV—By a Representative of the Imperial Cable and Wireless Services	146	Some Reflections on the Telegraph Service. By Mensano	64
William Alexander Valentine	179	V—By an Engineer	170	Service Inspection and the Calling Rate. By R. S. Grosvenor	161
World's Telephones, The	70	VI—By a Provincial Chief Superintendent of Telegraphs	192	Stamford Dramatic Society. "Tilly of Bloomsbury"	187
Year of Jubilee, A	240	VII—By a Traffic Officer	212	Telegraph Service in 1950. By J. J. Tyrrell	203, 222
		VIII—A Postscript. By L. S.	232	Telegraph Service, The. By an Engineering Officer	242
		Inauguration of Telephone Service between the Isle of Man and England	218	Telegraph Union, Conference of	22
		Ineffective Calls. By A. E. Higgins	2	Telegraphic Matters. By H. P. Steed	49
		Intensive Canvassing. By C. W. Muirhead	194	Telephone Development of British Towns at end of 1928. By W. H. Gunston	140
		International Telephony. By F. Gill	32	Telephone Development of the World at Dec. 31 1927. By W. H. Gunston	62
		International Telephony. By H. Townsend	87, 106, 128, 148	Telephone Development Studies. By W. R. Burgess and A. R. Lewis	243
		Isle of Man and Ireland, New Telephone Cable	201	Telephone Engineering : Cost Accounting Generalities. By H. J. B. F. and L. J. C.	23
		John Lee, C.B.E. Personal Recollections. By L. T. H.	86	Telephone Play, The	165
		John Lee. By H. N. B.	110	Telephone Service in the Home Counties. By W. C. G.	196
		Local Directory Information	184	Telephotography. By W. T. Lowe	183
		London Automatic System. By M. C. Pink	72, 91	Traffic Officer's Dream, A. By C. D. I.	13
		'Lost Office' Circular, The	77	Why not Advertise the Telephone? By P. J. S.	17
		Moving Trains and Telegraphy, Telephony and Television. By J. J. T.	193		
		National Telephone Staff Re-Union Dinner	8, 29, 57, 77	Telegraphic Memorabilia 4, 24, 44, 65, 84, 117, 130, 154, 173, 197, 217, 237	
		New Telephone Cable to Isle of Man and Ireland. By T. E. Herbert	201	Telephonists' Column (Talk of Many Things) 14, 38, 55, 80, 96, 121, 141, 163, 189, 207, 226, 245	
				London Telephone Service Notes 15, 28, 56, 69, 98, 122, 142, 164, 185, 209, 227, 247	

EDITORIALS.

PAGE

PAGE

PAGE

HIC ET UBIQUE.

10, 31, 51, 71, 90, 113, 134, 156, 180, 200, 221, 240

PRINCIPAL ARTICLES.

Accounts Branch and the Calling Rate, The. By R. S. Grosvenor	233
American Telegraph and Telephone Journal, An. By J. J. T.	219
American Telegraph Systems. By G. T. Archibald	135, 158, 176
Bath. Introduction of Automatic Working. By J. M. Crombie	103
Baudot Multiplex Printing Telegraph System	184
Bermundsey Automatic Exchange	12
Brief Chronology for Students of Telegraphs, Telephones, and Posts. By Harry G. Sellars	20, 59, 68, 98, 168, 188, 230, 250
British Telephone Service, Efficiency of	64
C.C.I.T., Berlin, June, 1928. By H. B.	215
Changes at the Central Telegraph Office during the last Fifteen Years. By J. Stuart Jones	52
Civil Service Dramatic Society. "The Last of Mrs. Cheyne"	133
Commission Control of Public Utility Services. By A. J. Waldegrave	114, 138

INDEX—continued.

	PAGE
Glasgow Telephone Notes	15, 40, 58, 79, 95, 111, 132, 166, 173, 206, 228, 249
London Engineering District Notes	95, 111, 163, 209, 227, 246
Central Telegraph Office Notes	111, 162, 188, 209, 239
Newcastle Telephone Notes	... 40, 226
Manchester Notes	... 29, 58, 97, 117, 248
Liverpool Telephone Notes	58, 124, 128, 166
Gloucester Notes	... .. 79, 163
Progress of the Telephone System	8, 29, 48, 67, 97, 108, 133, 162, 186, 198, 222, 236

Telegraph and Telephone Men and Women.

Blackett, Sir Basil	... .. 191
Dive, Horace	... .. 231
Ford, O. M.	... .. 81
Gall, J. R.	... .. 61
Gauntlett, W. E.	... .. 1
Gayes, E. J.	... .. 169
Grattan, Commander E. L. C.	... .. 41
Lenton, H. J.	... .. 101
Markin, F. E.	... .. 145
Riley, Frank	... .. 125
Townshend, Hugh	... .. 211
Whitelaw, J. T.	... .. 21

Shorter Paragraphs.

Air Pictures	... .. 58
Booth-Baudot Award (I.P.O.E.E.)	... .. 64
Cricket: Nottingham v. Sheffield	... .. 225
C. B. Clay Football Challenge Cup	... .. 153
C.O.D.O.C. Again!	... .. 29
Christmas Greetings by Telegraph	... .. 68
Christmas Telegraph Traffic in South Africa	... .. 109
Civil Service Dramatic Society	... .. 186
C.T.O. Pensioners' New Year Re-Union	... .. 120
Death of a "Royal" Telegraphist	... .. 89
Dinner to Mr. Curtis-Bennett	... .. 13
G.P.O. Players	... .. 28, 103
Glasgow Notes on Mr. Archibald's impressions of American Telegraphs	... .. 111

	PAGE
Inter District Cricket Matches	... .. 247
Kew Gardens Again!	... .. 195
National Sanatorium Benenden	... .. 190
Nottingham Traffic Dept. Visit to Ericssons	... .. 124
Opening of Transatlantic Service Spain—U.S.A.	... .. 94
P.O.A.C. Nursing and First Aid	... .. 152
Post Office Sanatorium Society	... .. 48
Post Office Telephone & Telegraph Society of London	... .. 17
Prize Giving: Girl Probationers (L.T.S.)	... .. 68
Response to a Call for "Help"	... .. 67
St. Albans Notes	... .. 155
St. John Ambulance Association	... .. 87
Staff Hospital Collections—London	153, 236
Ten Years After	... .. 157

Verse.

Polyglot. By W. H. G.	... .. 201
Rhapsody. By G. E. G. F.	... .. 157
Telephone Pioneers	... .. 78
<i>See also verses by P. W. M. H., C. D., R. A. L., C. A. S., M. Pilot, I. E. R. J. and D. D. (in "We Telephonists"), H. A. (in L.T.S. Notes), and by M. L. Tulloch (in Glasgow Telephone Notes), passim.</i>	

Reviews.

<i>Aufgaben aus der Fernmeldetechnik.</i> By K. Buttler	... .. 236
<i>A.T.M. Telegraph Engineers' Handbook</i>	... .. 195
<i>Civil Service Arts Magazine</i>	... .. 109
<i>Definitions and Formulae for Students</i>	... .. 83
<i>Handwörterbuch des Elektrischen Fernmeldewesens</i>	... .. 109
<i>Heaviside's Electrical Circuit Theory.</i> By Louis Cohen	... .. 78
<i>International Lists of Radio-Electric Stations</i>	... .. 235
<i>International Radiotelegraphic Convention at Washington</i>	... .. 11
<i>Introduction to Theoretical Physics.</i> By Arthur Haas	... .. 47
<i>Marconi Review, The</i>	... .. 83
<i>Pioneers of Wireless.</i> By Ellison Hawks	... .. 150
<i>Post Office People.</i> By J. C. Craven	... .. 11
<i>Practical Electrician's Handbook</i>	... .. 150
<i>Probability and its Engineering Uses.</i> By Thornton C. Fry	... .. 47

	PAGE
<i>Radio Telegraphy and Telephony.</i> By R. L. Duncain and C. E. Drew	... .. 235
<i>Source Books in the History of the Sciences.</i> By Gregory D. Walcott	... .. 150
Obituary.	
Allen, S. O.	... .. 239
Dalton, Mr. W. (Preston)	... .. 186
DALZELL, Mr. R. A.	... .. 54
EMDEN, Mr. S. J. J. H. VAN	... .. 23
Fenton, Mr. Chas. (Jersey)	... .. 187
Greer, Miss E. F.	... .. 697
LEE, Mr. JOHN	... .. 71
O'Connor, Mr. J. J. (Reading)	... .. 190
Parsons, A. A.	... .. 239
Rathbone, Capt. W. L. C.	... .. 164

Promotions, Retirements, Presentations.

Bateman, G. D., Middlesbrough	... .. 19
Beck, T. A.	... .. 168
Bryson, Richard, L.T.S.	... .. 135
Butler, Miss M. F.	... .. 190
Craig, J. R., Canterbury	... .. 19
Dowding, G. V.	... .. 153
Gregory, G. A. W., Southampton	... .. 19
Harris, H. V. J., Southampton	... .. 152
Marshall, H., Scotland West	... .. 174
Pirie, J., Gloucester	... .. 18
Steed, H. P.	... .. 225
Wadley, Frank Talbot	... .. 13, 49
Watson, F. O. (N. Midland)	... .. 147

Correspondence.

<i>American Telephone Service.</i> J. W. Marshall	... .. 15
<i>Automatic Multiplex.</i> A. C. B. Donald Murray	... .. 116
<i>How to Improve the Telegraph Service:</i>	
"Small Officer"	... .. 116
Candid	... .. 116
Convinced	... .. 127
W. F. Cashmore	... .. 127
Small Office	... .. 152
W. T. L. (C.T.O.)	... .. 183, 238

THE
TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE
JOURNAL.

VOL. XVI.

October 1929 — September 1930.

LONDON: G.P.O. NORTH, E.C.1.

INDEX TO VOL. XVI.

EDITORIALS.	PAGE	Peregrinations through the Broadcasting World. By J. J. T.	PAGE	PAGE
Economic Research	212	179, 194, 224, 237		
Epic of the Sea. An	134	Picture Transmission. By E. S. Ritter	202	
European Telephone Developments	70	Post Office Engineer, The. By T. B. Johnson	6	
Gales, The	93	Post Office Switches Australia through to America, The	20	
Imperial Cable and Wireless Services, The	10	Post Office Telephone and Telegraph Society of London (Programme) ...	37	
King's Broadcast, The	92	Professor Graham Bell's Wonderful Invention. (A News-cutting from 1877)	246	
Lessons from Motor Statistics	50	Progress of the Telephone System 5, 28, 49, 75, 91, 119, 133, 153, 183, 201, 220, 245		
Life-Saving and Hoaxing	158	Progress of Electrical Communication in India. By J. J. T.	91	
Overseas Telephone Extensions	172	Psychology of a Telegraphist. By J. J. T.	25	
Picture Telegraphy	92	Publication of Telephone Numbers. By G. Buckeridge	183	
Progress of the Telephone in Europe ...	236	Public Telephone Service to Australia ...	177	
Retrospect of 1929. A	70	Random Remarks to Herb	16	
Rural Inquisitiveness and Rural Reserve Rural Lines	172	Rebirth of the Telegraph, The. By F. J. Lane	3	
Sea Breezes	71	Remarkable Career of a Telegraphist. By J. J. T.	28	
Steam Hammers and Nuts	50	Risk. By F. J. Lane	43	
Telephone Courtesies	134	Rotation v. Specialisation. By E. J. Wright	238	
Telephone Development	30	Satellite Exchanges at Nottingham, The Service Inspector, The. By W. F. Hough	246	
Telephone Hatred	192	Skyscrapers. By C. W. M.	129	
Winter's Tale	134	Smelling by Ear	94	
World Telephone System. A	114	Summary of Evidence as to the First Telephone Exchange in Europe. By W. H. Gunston	7	
HIC ET UBIQUE.		Telegraphs and Telephones in Egypt. By F. C. Burstall	107	
11, 30, 51, 71, 94, 115, 135, 158, 173, 192, 212, 236		Telephone as Love Index, The. By Ossip Dymow	213	
TELEGRAPHIC MEMORABILIA.		Telephone Development Association, Work and Methods of	52	
9, 24, 44, 67, 89, 116, 130, 154, 184, 198, 215, 240		Telephone Development of British Towns at Beginning of 1930. By W. H. Gunston	219	
PRINCIPAL ARTICLES.		Telephone Development of the World at 31st Dec., 1928. By W. H. Gunston	63	
A.T.M. All-Electric Totalisator at Newmarket	186	Telephone Progress Reports, 1929 (Extracts from):		
Australia, Public Telephone Service to ...	177	London	118	
Better, Cheaper, and Larger Telephotograms. By J. J. T.	49	Liverpool	119	
Brief Chronology for Students of Telegraphs, Telephones, and Posts. By Harry G. Sollars 20, 40, 60, 104, 144, 163, 209, 234, 254	254	Manchester	132	
Butcher Mystery, The. By F. J. Lane ...	239	Birmingham	132	
"Caliphony." By W. T. L. (C.T.O.) ...	225	Teleprinter, The. By A. P. Ogilvie 42, 62, 82, 111, 127, 148		
Convassing Methods. By J. Turner ...	136	Teleprinters in the Making. By B. S. T. Wallace	180	
Charing Cross Scheme, The. By C.W.M.	3	Telephonist and the Press, The. By W. H. Gunston	221	
Christmas Cards by Wire (South Africa). By E. E.	89	This Wireless Business. By B. S. T. Wallace	196	
Control of Imperial Wireless Telegraphy, The	129	Tourist Trophy Races at Douglas, Isle of Man. By R. A. David	217	
C.T.O. Pensioner and the Cocos Islands, A. By J. J. T.	69			
Developments in Machine Telegraph Systems and Methods of Operation. By J. J. T.	150			
Development of the Advisory Side of Contract Work. By "Sherwood" ...	214			
Diploma in Public Administration, The. By J. T. E. A. Waddell	22			
Distant Control of Wireless Broadcast Receivers. By B. S. T. Wallace ...	84			
Doggy Story, A. By F. W. G.	170			
Fine Arts and the Three Services of the Post Office. By J. J. T.	8			
First Telephone Exchange in Europe: Summary of Evidence	7			
G.P.O. Players' Dramatic Society 2, 25, 133				
Heraldry in Flaxman Exchange. By H. G. C.	182			
How to Improve the Telegraph Service. (From a German Correspondent) ...	106			
Do. (Discussion at Meeting of London Telephone and Telegraph Society)...	159			
Ichabod (Sunday, Sept. 29, 1929) ...	23			
Intelligent Anticipation	12			
Is a Typewriter-Telegraph-Telephone Service in Sight? By J. J. T. ...	12			
Jubilee of the Telephone Exchange System, The. By W. E. Gauntlett	7			
"Lag": Its Cause and Cure, The. By W. G.	68			
Light from Manila. By W. H. G. ...	150			
London-Berlin Picture Transmission Service. By E. Phillips	95			
Maintenance of Telephone Plant, The. By H. G. S. Peck	156, 174, 195			
Mass Suggestion. By F. G. Lane	87			
Manchester Automatic Telephones and the Encouragement of Home Industries	127			
Metropolitan and National Exchanges, The New	4			
"Mixture as Before, The." London Telephonists' Society Musical Play	156			
More Notes on the Teleprinter. By John C. Craven	175			
"Mrs. Moonlight" at the Cripplegate Institute	97			
New "Metropolitan" and "National" Stronger Automatic Telephone Exchanges, The	4			
New President of the Institution of Electrical Engineers, The. By J. J. T.	46			
New Zealand Telephones	45			
Non-Competitive Advertising. By W.T.L.	91			
Nottingham Satellite Exchanges ...	243			
On One Note. By T. B. S.	42a			
Operator and the Trunk Call, The. By R. S. Grosvenor	178			
Ordering Goods by Telegraph and Telephone. By J. J. T.	113			

	PAGE
Trades and Professions. By W. E. G. ...	200
Traffic Section Dinner	162
Transatlantic Telephone, The. By Henry T. Russell	47
Transatlantic Telephony. By Lt.-Col. A. G. Lee	151
Undercurrents. By W. F. T.	2
Value of Tradition, The. By P. J. Mantle	31
Wireless Aids to Navigation. By F. Addey	72
Work and Methods of the Telephone Development Association, The. By H. E. Powell-Jones	52
London Telephone Service Notes 15, 34, 56, 78, 103, 123, 142, 168, 188, 206, 229, 247	
"We Telephonists" (Talk of Many Things) 17, 33, 57, 77, 99, 121, 139, 167, 189, 208, 231, 248	
C.T.O. Notes 14, 38, 55, 80, 98, 122, 141, 164, 190 (iv) July, 230, 251	
London Engineering Notes 16, 29, 58, 96, 124, 170, 207	
Glasgow Telephone Notes 15, 36, 58, 79, 101, 120, 137, 166, 186, 201, 231, 249	
Liverpool Telephone Notes 14, 138, 190, 207, 233, 252	
Newcastle Notes 29, 233, 252	
Leeds District Notes 55, 79, 102, 124, 141, 161, 187, 206, 226, 250	
Manchester Notes 100, 140, 165, 232	
Western District Telephone Notes 138, 190, 209, 227, 250	
Aberdeen Notes 233, 251	
Shorter Paragraphs.	
A.G.D. Sports Assn. Dances	38, 76
Bogota Telephone Company	252
Booth-Baudot Award	55
Chile Telephone Concession	96
Civil Service Arts Magazine	183
Communication with other Planets	143
Daily Mail Schoolboys' Exhibition	76
Doride Ladies' Swimming Club	37
For our Advertisers 17, 27, 59, 66, 87, 121, 128, 189, 208, 228, 253	
Gloucester Notes	233
Golf	163, 207
Lancaster Notes	253
Language Scholarship	176
League of Nations London Telephone Service Branch	25
L.T.S. Ambulance Centre	143
London Telephone Service, League of Nations Union	176
New Year's Meet of C.T.O. Pensioned Officers	101
North Midland District—Lecture	76
Social Committee	111
N.W. Telephone District, Contract Notes	51
Nottingham Ladies' Hockey Team	165
Parliamentary Questions	76, 199, 253
Reading Notes	228
"Relay" and "Sterling" Fusion	96
Relics of C.T.O. in Devon	135
St. Albans Note, A	46
St. John Ambulance Association	32

	PAGE
St. Martin's Swimming Club Gala	60
Scotland Western District Notes	250
Shanghai Telephone Journal	175
Single-Sided Racks	38
Southampton Notes	138
South Wales District Notes	228
Summer Reunion: C.T.O. Pensioned Officers July (iv)	
Telephonic Attachments	45
Wireless Telephone Service with Ships at Sea	117
Presentations, Promotions and Retirements.	
Adams, F. E. C. B. (Belfast)	94
AITKEN, ROBERT	164
Barker, A. (Southampton)	38
Bristow, A. G. (York)	185
Cook, Miss E. M.	113
Cowie, J.—West Internal	69
CURRALL, P. F.	221
Durandeau, Miss L. M.	138
Dykes, E. H. (E. in-C.'s Office)	97
EDMOND, P.	137
FORD, D. M.	193
Grosvenor, R. S. (Gloucester)	38
Knowles, Pearson (York)	149
McFARLANE, H. G.	143
MACLURE, H. J.	133
Marsh, W. J., Cardiff	55
MEDLYN, W. J.	200
MILLAR, CRAWFORD	117
Slater, Miss E.	142
STIRLING, J. F.	11

	PAGE
Obituary.	
Ampleford, Miss Emily; Coultrey, J. H.; and Foord, W. G.	253
Geary, J. N., W. J. H. Joyes, and John Buchan (C.T.O.)	176
Gordon, Adam	137
HANSFORD, DR. R. V.	22
May, A. L. (Southampton)	150
Mayes, J. M. (Liverpool)... ..	75
Meaking, W. H.	233

(NOTE.—For other Promotions, Presentations, and Obituary Notices *vide* also the various London and Provincial Notes.)

	PAGE
Telegraph and Telephone Men and Women.	
Archibald, G. T.	1
Barnes, D. J.	211
Bates, T. A.	147
Beck, T. A.	21
Cohen, B. S.	235
Hart, A. B.	184
Lloyd, Capt E. C.	81
Mansell, C. H.	125
Moorhouse, C. F.	105
Welch, H. C. G.	41

	PAGE
Correspondence.	
Advertising. Anon.	245
An Early Teleprinter. A. C. Booth	244
Birds' Nests and Telegraph Wires. B. Wienick	227
Corals. Fra Angelico	208
Correct Terms and Expressions in Technical Matters. <i>Phi</i> for Use of. X.	185
City and Guilds of London Institute Examinations. C. H. Haycocks	13
Civil Service University Students' Association. J. T. E. A. Waddell	98
Distant Control of Broadcast Receivers. J. W. Willshire	113
First Exchange in Europe. H. G. S. Peck	27
How to Improve the Telegraph Service:	
J. Veen	13
W. H. L. & J. S. (Carlisle)	27
W. T. George	27
W. T. L. (C.T.O.)	54, 98
R. Teasdale	66
F. J. Binder	112
H. G. Sellars	155
Telegraphist	244
"Lag" (The): Its Cause and Cure. J. M. Shackleton	112
Most Honest Borough, The. M. J. C.	185
The Advisory Side of Contract Work. G. E. Nicholls	245
The Post Office Engineer. U. J. C.	66
Telegraphic Zone System. W. T. L. (T.S.)	227
Wireless Broadcast Reception. B. S. T. Wallace	138

	PAGE
Reviews.	
A.B.C. of Television. (Raymond Francis Yates)	48
Autobiographical and Other Writings. (A. A. Campbell Swinton)	220
Commercial A.C. Measurements. (G. W. Stubbings)	200
Elements of Radio Communication. (John H. Morecraft)	76
First Year Electrical Engineering. (D. J. Bolton)	23
High Voltage Cables (L. Emanuelli)	96
Introduction to Theoretical Physics, Vol. II. (Arthur Haas)	48
Loaded Submarine Telephone and Telegraph Cables. (Siemens Bros.)	76
Overhead Power Lines. (Capt. W. Morecombe)	96
Private Automatic Branch Exchanges. (R. T. A. Dennison)	48
Radio Data Charts. (Dr. R. T. Beatty)	177
Relais (Le). Revue Mensuelle	23
Study of the Induction Motor. A. (F. T. Chapman)	240
Telegraphy. (T. E. Herbert)	131
Telegraphy and Telephony, including Wireless Communication. (B. Mallett)	48
Theory of Electrical Artificial Lines and Filters. (A. C. Bartlett)	177
Transmission Networks and Wave Filters. (T. E. Shea)	177
Universe Around Us, The. (Sir James Jeans)	9

THE
TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE
JOURNAL.

VOL. XVII.

October 1930 — September 1931.

LONDON: G.P.O. NORTH, E.C.1.

INDEX TO VOL. XVII.

	PAGE
EDITORIALS.	
"Affording" Things	2
Canvassing Campaign. The	194
Europe's Telephone Progress	42
Furthering Home Industries	22
Graffiti—and Blotting Pads	262
Nine Years' Achievement in International Telephony	238
Retirement of Mr. W. T. Leech	66
Retrospect of 1930. A	67
Rural Development	94
Statistical "As you Like it," The	146
Telegraph Rearrangements at Leeds, The	42
Telephone Charge Fallacies	214
Telephone Charges	238
Telephone Endowment	170
World's Fluctuating Telephone Develop- ment, The	118
PRINCIPAL ARTICLES.	
Advertising and Telephone Development. By J. P. U.	81
Afford a Telephone, Afford a Car? By W. T. Lowe	8
Automatic Telephone Progress	29
Brief Chronology for Students of Telegraphs, Telephones, and Posts. By Harry G. Sellars 64, 92, 144, 192, 236, 260, 280	280
British Industries Fair, Olympia, Some Impressions of a Contract Officer, at. By J. S. J.	161
Calculagraph, The. By J. R. Sutcliffe	142
Canvassing-de-Luxe. By A. C. Orchin	158
Canvassing Episode, A. By F. W. C.	44
Characteristics of Radio Communication. By A. J. Gill	225, 240
Coming of the Model Telegraph Office, The. By C. H. Mansell	46
Conference of Telegraph Supervising Officers	131
Conversion of Newcastle-on-Tyne Area to Automatic Working. By F. J.	163
Conversion of Preston Area to Automatic Working	186
Developments in Television. By W. G. W. Mitchell	215
Display of Telephone Apparatus at Messrs. Selfridge & Co., Ltd. By G. W. Livermore	130, 156
Display of Telephone Apparatus at Messrs. Bentham's, Kingston	229
Drum Storage Cell, The. By B. S. T. Wallace	4

	PAGE
Engineering and Traffic Aspects of Tele- Printer Development, The. By A. P. Ogilvie and F. W. Dopson	177, 199
European Wireless Stations: Notes on Visits to. By A. H. Read and R. G. de Wardt	30
Exhibitions (Use of Telephone at). By J. A. Dickinson	181
Folkestone Automatic Exchange	251
G.P.O. Players, The, "Cock Robin" 106, 122, 155	155
G.P.O. Players, The, "Dandy Dick"	58
Haig Pit Colliery (Whitehaven) Disaster, Jan. 29, 1931	127
Helpless. By W. F. T.	205
How Talk Began. By W. T. L.	8
How to Improve the Telephone Service. By M. C. Pink (part of a discussion)	104
Letters from a Retired Contract Manager to His Son	227, 249, 270
L.T.S. Swimming Gala	37
Long Distance Telephony. By J. F. Darby 55, 77, 102, 119, 153, 171, 196, 216, 242	242
Long Distance Telephony in the U.S.A. By W. C. Griffith	123, 150
Lowestoft Front 1910 and 1916, The. By J. J. T.	156
Manchester Automatic System, Review of Mayfair. By A. J. Allison	245 174
Mechanisation of the Telegraphs. By J. J. T.	273
"Mental Wireless"	260
Notes on Visits to European Wireless Stations. By A. H. Read and R. G. de Wardt	30
Operators in Far Distant Lands	15
Passing of "Via Indo," The. By J. J. T. p. iv. April	15
Peregrinations through the Broadcasting World. (J. J. T.) 4, 24, 44, 79, 122, 258	258
Post Office Engineering Contracts. By G. W. Bell	69, 96
Post Office Telephone and Telegraph Society of London	11
Progress of the Telephone System 14, 26, 56, 81, 99, 133, 149, 183, 201, 222, 241, 265	265
Psychology of Telephone Salesmanship. By A. G. Orchin	45
Radio Communication, The Characteristics of	225, 240
Review of Manchester Automatic System. By J. M. Crombie	245
Roumanian Telegraphs and Telephones	23
Selling the Telephone. By F. J. Lane	268
Social Effects of Wireless. By H. B. R.	58
Some Appreciations of Promptitude in the Telephone Service	48
Some Aspects of Telephone Exchange Staffing. By P. J. Spence	264

	PAGE
Some Modern Aspects of Electrical Com- munication. By G. H. Nash	6
Telegraph Development in South Africa. By E. E.	219
Telegraph and Wireless Branches' Dinner: Secretary's Office	142
Telegraph in Persia, The	81
Telegraphing in Nairobi. By W. T. Smith	26
Telephone Charges	223
Telephone Development of British Cities, according to the Census of 1931. By W. H. Gunston	271
Telephone Development of the World at the end of 1929. By W. H. Gunston	50
Telephone Exchange Staffing. Some Aspects of	264
Telephone Finance. By Sir Henry Bunbury	148
Telephone Personality	219
Telephone Play, The: "Say it with Music"	184
Teletypewriter Development. Engineering and Traffic Aspects of	176, 199
Television, Development in	215
Visits to Telephone Exchanges by School- boys and Schoolgirls	89
While Britain Sleeps. By W. J. C.	271
Wireless, The Real Problem. By B. S. T. Wallace	75
Wireless Mascot, A.: The Milliammeter. By B. S. T. Wallace	107, 125

HIC ET UBIQUE.

2, 22, 42, 68, 94, 118, 147, 170, 195, 214, 238, 262

TELEGRAPHIC MEMORABILIA.

9, 27, 53, 72, 100, 129, 159, 179, 202, 220, 247, 268

**LONDON AND PROVINCIAL
DISTRICT NOTES.**

Aberdeen Notes	7, 133, 206
Birmingham Telephone Notes	17, 36, 57, 85, 114, 135, 166, 191, 270
Brighton Notes	139
Bristol District Notes	20, 44
C.T.O. Notes 5, 39, 54, 116, 143, 165, 206, 234, 244, 278	278
Glasgow Telephone Notes 19, 35, 63, 85, 113, 143, 164, 186, 208, 235, 254, 276	276
Gloucester Notes	20, 36, 256
Guildford Telephone Notes	106
Liverpool Notes 18, 29, 59, 91, 114, 141, 165, 184, 208, 250, 267	267
Leeds District Notes 14, 36, 59, 84, 114, 137, 161, 191, 208, 235, 252, 279	279
London Engineering District Notes 91, 110, 140, 161, 190, 208, 230, 257, 277	277
London Telephone Service Notes 16, 38, 61, 86, 112, 134, 166, 189, 268, 232, 253, 273	273

	PAGE
Manchester Notes ...	19, 83, 89, 233, 258
Middlesbrough District Notes ...	11
Newcastle-on-Tyne Service Notes ...	60, 138, 208
North Western District Notes ...	164, 208, 232, 255
Reading District Notes ...	57, 106, 160, 185
Scotland Western District Notes ...	234
Sheffield District Notes ...	40, 62, 82, 143, 155, 255, 278
Southampton Notes ...	106, 188, 257
South Wales Notes ...	156, 255
Western District Notes ...	34, 62, 90, 137, 161, 208, 256
"We Telephonists" (Talk of Many Things)	17, 34, 62, 82, 111, 136, 166, 187, 207, 231, 268, 275

Shorter Paragraphs.

Belfast Window Exhibit ...	206
Blackpool Telephone Staff Meetings ...	135
Booth-Baudot Award ...	128
C. B. Clay Challenge Cup ...	p. iv (June)
C.T.O. Library ...	165
Civil Service Arts Ball ...	3
In Memoriam ...	211
I.P.O.E.E. (Lecture by Mr. Peck) ...	83
Kew Gardens Again ...	p. iv (July)
Morecambe Whist Drive and Dance ...	139
New Year Gathering, C.T.O. Colleagues ...	135
Obituary—Miss Coulston ...	188
Mr. H. A. Miles ...	229
Post Office Electrical Engineers' Journal ...	99
Prompt Action by Night Operator in a Burglary Case ...	195
"Radio at a Glance" ...	239
Retired C.T.O. Officers' Obituaries ...	260, 274
South Devon Retired Postal and Telegraph Officials Reunion ...	76
Telegraphic Addresses ...	81
They Can't Catch You on the Automatic ...	211
Transatlantic Telephony ...	126
Unique Kiosk, A ...	276

Presentations.

Bates, T. A. ...	84
Beal, F. (Southampton) ...	p. iv (June)
Edward, G. ...	111

	PAGE
Elliott, J. R. M. ...	60
King, W. H. ...	p. iv (April)
Liddiard, Miss J. ...	140
Murray, J. F. ...	84
Pounds, E. A. ...	253
Simpson, W. M. ...	114
Taylor, F. W. ...	116

(NOTE.—For other presentations see under various "District Notes.")

Telegraph and Telephone Men and Women.

Baldwin, F. G. C. ...	145
Brain, Lieut.-Col. W. T. ...	117
Brown, Major H. ...	193
Corner, H. G. ...	65
Faulk, A. ...	1
Lee, O. G. ...	169
Sambrook, H. F. ...	93
Sirett, A. W. ...	237
Stanhope, J. H. ...	213
Stow, G. S. ...	21
Tinniswood, R. ...	261
Wilson, J. H. ...	41

Correspondence.

"Demand" Trunk Working. A. E. Tanner ...	133
Helpless. S. C. & T. ...	226
How to Develop the Telephone Service:	
Contract Officer, Class I ...	12, 109
A Contract Manager ...	56
L. M. Benson ...	80
"In This Connexion." H. G. Sellars ...	12
Invention of the Telephone. Lieut.-Col. F. J. Nisbet ...	206
Machine Telegraphy. "Impulsive" ...	80
"Mental Wireless." W. T. L. ...	277
Problems of the Telegraphs: Recruitment and Training. "Mensano" ...	109
Rotation v. Specialisation. "Mensano" ...	12
Telegraph Exchanges. P. T. Macnamara ...	33
Telephone Charges. Whateley C. Arnold ...	251
Telephone Contract Officer. The:	
R. G. R. ...	57
W. J. Reason ...	81
W. F. C. ...	109
X for Xmas. F. J. Lane ...	81

Reviews.

	PAGE
<i>Algebraic Charts.</i> (Edgar Dehn) ...	76
<i>Appareils Transporteurs Mécaniques de Bureau.</i> (J. Jacob) ...	13
<i>Cables and Wireless Communications of the World.</i> (F. J. Brown) ...	106
<i>Communication Networks. Vol. I.</i> (Ernst A. Guillemin) ...	224
<i>Definitions and Formulae for Students.</i> (F. Peake Sexton) ...	49
<i>Easy Lessons in Television.</i> (R. W. Hutchinson) ...	76
<i>Electric Clocks.</i> (F. Hope-Jones) ...	157
<i>Elementary Mathematical Astronomy.</i> (Barlow and Bryan) ...	25
<i>Elementary Principles of Wireless Telegraphy and Telephony.</i> (R. D. Baugay) ...	24
<i>Elementary Hypobolies.</i> (M. E. J. Gheury de Bray) ...	206
<i>Entwicklung des Fernmeldewesens für den öffentlichen Verkehr.</i> (Artur Kunert) ...	175
<i>Faraday.</i> (E. W. Ashcroft) ...	263
<i>Handbook of Technical Instruction for Wireless Telegraphists.</i> (H. M. Dowsett) ...	24
<i>High Frequency Alternating Currents.</i> (K. McIlwain and J. G. Brainerd) ...	224
<i>Post Annual 1931. The</i> ...	106
<i>Principles of Electric Power Transmission.</i> (H. Waddicor) ...	25
<i>Quantum Chemistry.</i> (Arthur Haas) ...	49
<i>Relays in Automatic Telephony.</i> (R. W. Palmer) ...	106
<i>Romance of the Civil Service. The.</i> (Samuel McKechnie) ...	46
<i>Romance of Electricity.</i> (W. H. Randall) ...	26
<i>Selenium Cell, The.</i> (G. P. Barnard) ...	2
<i>Technique of Efficient Office Methods.</i> (P. T. Lloyd) ...	2
<i>Telephone Theory and Practice.</i> (Kempster B. Miller) ...	76
<i>Testing Radio Sets.</i> (J. H. Reyner) ...	70
<i>Textbook of Sound.</i> (A. B. Wood) ...	1
<i>Theory and Practice of Radio Frequency Measurements.</i> (E. B. Moulton) ...	17
<i>Tribute to Michael Faraday. A.</i> (Rollo Appleyard) ...	15

Questions on Telegraphy, Telephony, Electricity and Magnetism.

44, 76, 101, 128, 158, 185, 204, 228, 251, 27

THE
TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE
JOURNAL.

VOL. XVIII.

October 1931 — September 1932.

LONDON: G.P.O. NORTH, E.C.1.

INDEX TO VOL. XVIII.

	PAGE		PAGE		PAGE
EDITORIALS.					
An Obl. Old Song	1	Edison Scholarship Competition, The.	183	Post Office Telephone and Telegraph Society of London	15
Exhibitions Then and Now	162	By W. H. G.	183	Progress of the Telephone System	11, 27, 58, 79, 93, 127, 141, 167, (June) i, 207, 241, 257
Facilities for Telephones in New Buildings	91	Evening with the Telegraphs, An	48	Public Printing Telegraph Services of the U.S.A.	By J. J. T. ... 148
Forecasts Discounted	140	Exhibitions (Telegraph and Telephone Displays):		Recollections of an Old Telegraphist	190
Gentle Art of Suppression, The	46	Ashton-under-Lyne. By H. C. Froom	241	Reminiscences of the Old P.O. System at Newcastle.	By E. M. H. ... 177
Long Distance Telephony	250	Birmingham, British Industries Fair.	173	Round the Farmers. By Edward Dunnill	50
New London Telephone Area, The	182	By W. J. Lyttleton	173	Rural Automatic Exchanges: Traffic Preliminaries.	By G. D. Bateman ... 195
Night Calls	182	Halifax	85	Selfridge's New Private Branch Exchange	197
Night Telegraph Letters	140	Hull. By R. C. P.	219	Service Aspect of Automatic Working, The.	By H. A. Longley ... 188
Operators' Initiative	47	Leeds. By J. F. Murray	175	Service Inspector's Day, A. By H. Barnard	237
Press Campaigns—and One of Their Results	46	Olympia: "The Greatest Yet." By W. J. B.	168	Shea (J.), Retirement of Mr.	133
Reactions to Persuasiveness	206	Royal Agricultural Hall	36	Ship-to-Shore Telephones:	
Retrospect of 1931, A	68	Young People's	101	(Newport)	4
Rural Development	116	Faraday Building. By M. C. P.	123	(Tyne.) By R. P. Lowe	78
Should the Public be Told More?	69	G.P.O. Players, The:		Speaking Machines	113
Soft Answer, The	228	"The New Poor": "Where the Cross is Made"	53	Spirit of Service, The. By F. J. Lane	220
Was it Bluff?	22	"The Cardinal"	147	Staff Salesmanship Scheme	48
World's Telephones, The	69	Dinner and Dance	193	Staff Salesmanship:	
World's Telephones Once More, The	228	Inland Trunk Service, The. By H. Townshend	94, 118	(i) The Staff Sales Scheme. By Chas. Marland	81
PRINCIPAL ARTICLES.					
Accelerating Advice Note Procedure. By R. T.	49	International Telegraphy. By H. G. Sellars	152	(ii) By a Telegraphist	82
Acorn Exchange. By J. Hodgson	101	Johannesburg (S. Africa) Conversion to Automatic Working	268	Staff Sales Scheme. Results of	163
American Influence on British Telegraph Practice. By G. T. Archibald	75	Let Glasgow Flourish. By W. Reid	iv, Oct.	Statistics of Broadcast Reception. Some	34
Annual Reports of Telephone Progress, London: Liverpool: Manchester	131	Letters from a Retired Contract Manager to his Son	10, 30, 54	Stocktaking in the Telegraph Department. By W. D. S.	251
Art of Selling, The. By W. J. B.	82	Letter from a Contract Officer to his Father, Thos. E. L. Service	31, 83	Story of the Thermionic Valve, The. By B. S. T. Wallace	129, 146
Barnett, H., Retirement of	163	Life Story of a Ticket. By D. E.	55	Sunderland Automatic Scheme	249
Baxter, R. (Carlisle), Retirement of	267	London Wireless Campaign, The	23	Telegraph Branches' Annual Dinner, Secretary's Office	148
Birmingham's Introduction to the "Demand" System of Long Distance Telephony	166	Long Distance Telephony (Demand Trunk Working). By J. F. Darby	230, 252	Telephone Development of the World in 1930. By W. H. Gunston	73, 102
Booth, Lt.-Col. A. C. By J. J. T.	70	Manchester Automatic Scheme, The:		Telephone Exchange Methods from the Viewpoint of a Supervisor. By Margaret J. Clement	233
Brake on Progress, A. By F. J. Lane	176	(Blackfriars) By E. F. Cowley	24	Telephone in Business. By F. J. Lane	34
Brief Chronology for Students of Telegraphs, Telephones and Posts. By Harry G. Sellars	iv, (Nov.) 113, 203, 248, 269	(Sale and Longford.) By F. Wood	103	Telephone Publicity (Debate):	
Broadcasting Developments. By N. Ashbridge	184	Manchester Automatic System:		Mr. W. F. Taylor	143
Byron Exchange Opening	207	By J. S. McFadden	58	Mr. Powell-Jones	171
Civic Visit to New Sunderland Automatic Exchange	257	(Conversion of Stockport)	153	Mr. Whitehead	171
Comparative Telephone Statistics, Their collection and application. By W. H. Gunston	25, 51	Pre-Transfer Visits and Demonstrations. By J. J. Graham	261	Thirty-six Years as Cashier (Miss Childs)	60
Developments in the Model Telegraph Office. By C. H. Mansell	28	Morse or Steinheil? By Robert Filiaire	126	Twenty Years "On." By F. W. C.	187
		Motor Cycle Combinations in National Telephone Campaign	238	Varley Centenary, The. By J. J. T.	194
		New Phonogram Room at Leeds, The. By C. A. G. Salmon	8	"What is all This?" (The Telephone Play)	198
		New Testing and Maintenance Scheme at Telegraph Offices, The. By A. O. Gibbon	212	What Swiss Telephonists think of their Profession. By W. H. G.	208
		On Getting Business. By H. A. H.	128	Whitehall Automatic Exchange	11
		Peregrinations through the Broadcasting World. By J. J. T.	43	Wholesale Telegraphy. By H. G. S.	16

	PAGE
HIC ET UBIQUE.	
2, 22, 47, 70, 92, 116, 140, 162, 182, 206, 229, 250	

	PAGE
TELEGRAPHIC MEMORABILIA.	
5, 32, 56, 71, 98, 124, 150, 169, 191, 216, 239, 258	

	PAGE
LONDON AND PROVINCIAL DISTRICT NOTES.	
Aberdeen 147	
Bristol 194, 224, 243	
Birmingham 9, 39, 60, 84, iv (Feb.), 137, 157, 180, 197, 221, ii (Aug.)	
Brighton 155	
C.T.O. 16, 59, 80, 106, 133, 160, 177, 194, 226	
Glasgow 12, 66, 84, 108, 135, 177, 201, 222, 244, 263	
Gloucester 10, 180, 246	
Guildford 194, 244, 263	
Leeds 15, 41, 64, 85, 108, 134, 154, 174, 201, 211, 242, 264	
Liverpool 13, 43, 60, 86, 105, 136, 154, 175	
London Engineering 16, 42, 49, 86, iv (Feb.), iv (Mar.), 145, 180, 221, 238	
London Telephone Service 18, 38, 61, 89, 110, 137, 156, 178, 200, 224, 247, 265	
Manchester 20, 63, 107, 135, 149, 175, 193, 226, i (Aug.), 262	
Newcastle-on-Tyne 41, 64, 108, 156, 177, 226	
North Western 19, 40, 66, 86, 108, 127, 148	
North Midland 155, 260	
Scotland, Western 19, 40, 87, 112, 137, 168, 219, 257	
Sheffield 64, 155, 180, 218	
Southampton 86	
South Midland 222, 243	
South West i (June)	
Western 13, 42, 62, 105, 137, 160, 246, 263	
" We Telephonists " (Talk of Many Things) 17, 39, 65, 88, 112, 136, 158, 179, 199, 223, 245, 266	

	PAGE
Questions on Telegraphy, Telephony, Electricity and Magnetism.	
7, 35, 80, 105, 134	

	PAGE
Telegraph and Telephone Men.	
Ashby, C. F. 115	
Barnett, B. L. 91	
Berlyn, A. L. E. 45	
Dunne, H. W. 1	
Harvey, O. J. 139	
Jones, L. A. 227	
Oldcorn, W. I. 161	
Shackleton, J. M. 181	
Thomson, D. H. 67	
Thyne, Wm. 205	

	PAGE
Correspondence.	
<i>Brake on Progress</i> , A. H. James ... 193	
<i>Co-operation in the Service</i> , Mensano ... 243	
<i>Hearing</i> , Charles Irwin 193	
<i>How to Improve the Telegraphs</i> , C. H. J. Harley 132	
<i>Influences on Telegraph Practice :</i>	
" Carry on " 77	
W. T. Lowe 101	
<i>Reply Paid Advertisements</i> , M. E. Hankins 14	
<i>Ship-to-Shore Telephone</i> , E. G. D. Bowden 172	
<i>Telephone Charges : A New Suggestion :</i>	
Whateley C. Arnold 14	
R. H. Parker 14	
<i>Veteran Telegraph Chief</i> , A. P. J. Sullivan 133	

	PAGE
Reviews.	
<i>Acoustical Engineering</i> , (W. West) ... 262	
<i>Catalogue of British Scientific and Technical Books</i> , (British Science Guild) ... 83	
<i>Communication Engineering</i> , (W. L. Everitt) 167	

	PAGE
<i>Combination of Observations</i> , The. (David Brunt) 229	
<i>Elektrische Fernüberwachung und Fernbe- dienung</i> , &c. (Dr. Ing. M. Schleicher) 197	
<i>Experimental Electrical Engineering</i> , (E. T. A. Rapson) 167	
<i>From Telegraphy to Television</i> , (Lieut.-Col. Crawley) 3	
<i>International Communication</i> , (By Keith Clark) 37	
<i>Maxwell, James Clerk</i> , (Commemora- tion Volume 167	
<i>Nomogram, The</i> , (H. J. Allcock) ... 262	
<i>Practical Mathematics</i> , (Louis Toft) ... 211	
<i>Quest for Power</i> , The. (Hugh and Margaret Vowles) 59	
<i>Roger's Dictionary of Electrical Terms</i> ... 105	
<i>Rubber Information</i> 229	
<i>Submarine Telegraphy</i> , (Ing. Italo de Giuli) 166	
<i>Wireless</i> , (L. B. Turner) 83	

	PAGE
Portraits of Postmasters-General.	
The Right Hon. W. Ormsby-Gore ... 21	
The Right Hon. Sir Kingsley Wood ... 117	

	PAGE
Presentations.	
(See under local Notes.)	

	PAGE
Obituaries.	
Baines, Cecil 82	
Didden, F. P. 237	
Edwards, A. W., late Deputy Controller, C.T.O. 197	
Gray, R. W., Nottingham 70	
Lumsden, A. Brighton 62	
Retired C.T.O. Officers : R. Howle, H. A. Bolton, E. Gooding 122	
Shaw, J. H., J. Laxton, E. Purkiss, A. A. Upson and others 170	

THE
TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE
JOURNAL.

VOL. XIX.

October 1932 — September 1933.

LONDON: G.P.O. NORTH, E.C.1.

INDEX TO VOL. XIX.

EDITORIALS.		PAGE			PAGE			PAGE
Chronology	...	198	Engineer-in-Chief, The New (Col. A. G. Lee	...	90	Sheffield Temporary Demand Scheme.	By G. A. Beaumont	188
Kiosks	...	222	First Wireless Telegram, The. By T. L. D.	116	Sidelights on the Madrid Conference.	By F. W. Phillips	152, 176	
New British Overseas Telephone Exchange, The	...	46	Gloucester Telephone and Telegraph Exhibition	...	36	Spanning the Atlantic. By W. T. Lowe	279	
1932 and After	...	74	G.P.O. Players:			Telephone Notes from South Africa. By E. E.	...	127
Post Office Pirate Hunt	...	24	"The World's End" and "The Man who Wouldn't go to Heaven"	40	Telephone System, The. By Mensano	282		
Publicity	...	150	"The Admirable Crichton"	141	Telephone Development of the World in 1931. By W. H. Gunston	79, 103		
Retrospect of 1932, A	...	74	Holiday in Ireland, A. By E. E. C.	290	Telephone Exhibitions:			
"Ringing Up"	...	246	Impressions in an Automatic Telephone Exchange Apparatus Room	257	Newcastle-on-Tyne	52		
Telegraph Traffic and Revenue	...	270	Inland Telegraph Service, The. By R. P. Smith	129	Southampton, Portsmouth, and Bournemouth	61		
Telex Service	...	2	Leeds Demand Scheme. By S. W. Smith	104	Ideal Home, Glasgow	62		
Telephone Charges	...	102	Liverpool compared with other Districts. By J. P. Urwin	264	Manchester	166		
Telephoning is Good for You	...	126	London Telephonists' Society. Competition	169	Young Peoples', Birmingham	138		
Telephoning to India and the Far East	...	174	Long Distance Telephony. (New British Overseas Exchange.) By J. F. Darby	48, 85, 109, 135, 156, 178, 202, 230	Young Peoples', Newcastle	218		
PRINCIPAL ARTICLES.			Lucerne Broadcasting Conference, The. By F. W. P.	271	Telephone Publicity in 1884-5	214		
Administration and the Art of Management. By Sir H. N. Bunbury	...	38	Madrid Conference, Sidelights on the	152, 176	Telephones and Telegraphs Constructed by Schoolboys. By P. J. M.	92, 103		
"Advance," Opening of London's First "Bypass" Exchange	...	158	Manual Board Distribution—Automatic Exchanges. By M. J. Clement	256	Telephones in Schools. By G. H. Calcutt	195		
Anglo-Portuguese Telephone Co.'s Ball	...	206	Mayfair Telephone Building, Opening of the	53	Telephonic Development of Cities and Towns at Mar. 31, 1933. By W. H. Gunston	255		
Annual Reports of Telephone Progress 1933	...	134	Monetary and Economic Conference, The. By W. F. T.	228	"Things I would like to Know about the Telephone System, and Why." By B. M. McDonald	182		
Brief Chronology for Students of Telegraphs, Telephones, and Posts. By H. G. Sellars	...	71, 99, 140, 211	More Recollections of an Old Telegraphist. By P. J. S.	218	Trunk Junction Circuits: New Procedure. By W. A. Frame	65		
Brighter Homes Exhibition, Newcastle-on-Tyne. By R. P. L.	...	52	"Murder Has Been Arranged, A." (Stamford Dramatic Society)	210	Up-to-Date Public Telephone Facilities. By R. G. R.	15		
Brian's First Telephone. By R. F. Bradburn	...	162	"Pirate Hunting." By J. A. T. and C. V. S.	29	Weel may the Keel Row. (Demand Working at Newcastle.) By J. H. Anstee	184		
British & American Telephone Accounts, 1931. By A. J. Waddegrave	...	30, 50	Portable Telex. By A. P. Ogilvie	273	Who was the First Woman Telegraphist? By J. J. T.	201		
Burton-on-Trent. "Bypass" Automatic Exchange	...	209	Post Office Telephone Service from Different Points of View:		"Why I lost that Order"	289		
"Care Calling." (The Telephone Play)	...	190	(1) One of the Original Traffic Officers	13	Wigan "Common Control" New Automatic Scheme. By W. A. Stripp	8		
Cats, The. By W. D. S.	...	47	(2) A Postmaster-Surveyor	25	Wrong Numbers and All Those. By P. W. Bath	34		
C. B. Clay Football Charity Cup	...	216	Post Office Teleprinter Services. By A. P. Ogilvie:		Year's Demand Trunk Working in Retrospect, A. By B. T. S.	284		
Cotex Telephone Service	...	115	Tariff Circuits	81	Young Peoples' Telephone Exhibition at Birmingham. By W. A. S.	138		
Complaints from a Headquarters' Angle. By H. T.	...	155	Telex	26, 58	Young Peoples' Telephone Exhibition at Newcastle-on-Tyne. By R. P. L.	218		
Development Forecasts and the Initiation of Exchange Relief Schemes. By C. R. S.	...	4	Power and Lighting in Post Office Departments. By H. C. Gunton	76, 106	HIC ET UBIQUE.			
Developments in Engineering Construction. By P. J. Ridd	...	224, 250	Progress in Manual Telephony. Elmbridge Exchange. By F. E. Bishop	160	2, 24, 46, 75, 102, 126, 151, 175, 199, 222, 246, 270			
Directory Enquiry, London. By H. L. Pountney	...	185	Sales and Publicity—Is that Enough? By H. W. Smart	275	TELEGRAPHIC MEMORABILIA.			
Early Days of Long-Distance Telegraphy. By J. J. T.	...	87	Samples. By F. J. Lane	229	10, 33, 56, 89, 113, 133, 160, 183, 204, 233, 258, 276			
Enterprise at Brighton. By C.O.P.	...	111	Siemens No. 17 Automatic System. By C. W. Gerrard	207, 235	PROGRESS OF THE TELEPHONE SYSTEM.			
Electrical Interference with Broadcasting. By Col. A. S. Angwin	...	200	Selling the Service. By J. M. Crombie	128	7, 37, 49, 78, 112, 129, 154, 181, 210, 223, 249, 281			
			Service Sidelights. By Enid Chambers	274				

	PAGE
Telegraph and Telephone Men.	
Angwin, Col. A. S.	221
Belgrave, A.C.	73
Faulkner, A.	245
Ferguson, F.	269
Gilbert, W. G.	23
Herbert, T. E.	149
Murray, J. K.	125
Reeve, C. E.	1
Spafford, A. O.	197
Taylor, W. F.	45
Tucker, R. U.	173
Tydemar, A. G.	101

	PAGE
Retirements.	
Cameron, Major John	38
Goddard, S. J.	284
Harris, W. Blandford	275
Hawker, Frank	151
Kennedy, J. W. G.	219
Purves, Sir Thomas	84
Taylor, A. T.	247
Waite, Benjamin	12

	PAGE
Obituaries.	
Donald, Sir R., Mrs. Glueck, W. J. Potter	151
Field, Miss A.	7
Kemp, G. S., Geddes, Walter, T. Caparn, Philpott, Mrs. J. J.	115
Shepherd, R.	223
Morgan, L., Tanner, J. W., McNeill, John, and Hambro, H. C.	142
Tapley, A., Alfred Morgan, G. Bain ...	215
Watts, A.	264

LONDON AND PROVINCIAL DISTRICT NOTES.	
Belfast	121, 144, 291
Birmingham 15, 41, 63, 93, 118, 144, 165, 212, 239, 261	

	PAGE
Brighton	19, 32, 134, 185, 206
Bristol	39, 64
C.T.O. 22, 29, 66, 93, 116, 142, 163, 193, 218, 232, 287	
Chester	215, 262
Edinburgh Notes	163, 193, 242
Eastern District	37
Glasgow 16, 40, 62, 141, 167, 192, 238, 283	
Guildford 18, 42, 72, 95, 121, 143, 178, 214, 240, 292	
Gloucester	22, 37, 63, 94, 168, 238, 262
Leeds 16, 39, 55, 94, 117, 143, 164, 194, 212, 240, 260, 284	
Liverpool	14, 32, 121, 141, 169, 214
London Telephone Service 20, 42, 67, 97, 122, 147, 171, 196, 220, 243, 266, 285	
London Engineering District 219, 243, 268, 288	
Manchester 22, 41, 57, 95, 120, 139, 165, 215, 237, 269, 285	
Newcastle-on-Tyne 14, 40, 143, 191, 210, 292	
North Midland	60, 194
North Western	17, 65, 86
Norwich 18, 63, 80, 124, 142, 168, 195, 261	
Scotland (West)	12, 35, 118, 291
Sheffield	168, 194, 232, 262, 284
Southampton	261
South Midland	120, 166, 284
South Wales	17, 117
Western 17, 42, 64, 95, 120, 144, 193, 213, 240, 263, 285	

"We Telephonists" (Talk of Many Things) 19, 42, 69, 96, 122, 145, 171, 195, 216, 242, 265, 286	
---	--

Miscellaneous.	
Appreciation of Speed of Installation ...	278
Centels and Fortels	260
Cricket (Secretary's Office)	18, 239
C.T.O. Ex-Lady Superintendents	72
Gladman, C. R., Retirement of	215
G.P.O. Players	3
Farewell to a Notable "Quad"	291
"Freedom of Blackpool"	196

	PAGE
"Invicta" (Verses)	262
Kew Gardens Again	236
Modern Salesmanship	229
Parliamentary Items 72, 96, 236, 268, 271	
P.M.G. at Coventry	119
P.O. Telephone and Telegraph Society of P.O.E.D. (Northern District) Staff Dinner	13 164
Reunion of Retired Officers of C.T.O. ...	110
Retired C.T.O. and other officials in S. Devon	42
Retirement of two well-known French Engineers	92
"Seeing Red"	42
South Essex Reunion	174
Trunk Call to Heaven, A. (J. Wood) ...	182

Reviews.	
<i>Electrons and Waves.</i> (H. Stanley Allen.)	35
<i>Electronics.</i> (R. G. Hudson.)	91
<i>Great Age of Discovery, The.</i> (A. P. Newton.)	9
<i>Fernmelde Relais.</i> (C. Muhlbrecht u. J. Boysen.)	249
<i>How to Get the Best Value from Your Telephone System</i>	268
<i>Induction Coil Theory and Applications.</i> (E. Taylor Jones.)	91
<i>Induction Motor Practice.</i> (R. E. Hopkins.)	55
<i>Mechanism of Nature.</i> (Prof. Andrade.) ...	91
<i>Modern Radio Communication.</i> (J. H. Reyner.)	91
<i>Outline Notes on Telephone Transmission Theory</i>	91
<i>Principles of Radio Communication.</i> (J. H. Morecraft.)	230
<i>Secret Télégraphique et sa Protection, Le.</i> (Victor Meyer.)	116
<i>Short-Wave Radio Reception.</i> (W. Oliver.)	91
<i>Telephony.</i> (T. E. Herbert and W. S. Proctor.)	55
<i>Telephonic Theory and Practice.</i> (K. B. Miller.)	168
<i>Thermionic Vacuum Tubes.</i> (E. V. Appleton.)	35
<i>Wireless over 30 Years.</i> (R. N. Vyvyan.)	249

THE Telegraph and Telephone Journal.

Vol. XX.

OCTOBER, 1933.

No. 223.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE		PAGE
TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE MEN AND WOMEN (CXIII)—MR. B. R. MEAD	1	LONDON ENGINEERING DISTRICT NOTES	12
EDITORIAL:—		TELEPHONE STAFF MEETINGS. BY JAS. MAGNALL	13
THE OLD AND THE NEW	2	LEEDS DISTRICT NOTES	14
COMPARATIVE STATISTICS	2	SOUTH EASTERN DISTRICT P.O. SPORTS ASSOCIATION	14
THE "POST OFFICE MAGAZINE"	3	NORTH WESTERN DISTRICT NOTES	15
TO OUR AGENTS AND SUBSCRIBERS	3	SHEFFIELD DISTRICT NOTES	15
HIC ET UBIQUE	3	GLASGOW DISTRICT NOTES	15
RETIREMENT OF MR. J. STUART JONES, C.B.E.	4	SCOTLAND (WESTERN DISTRICT) NOTES	15
SERVICE	5	WESTERN DISTRICT NOTES	16
MY TELEPHONE BELL	5	MANCHESTER DISTRICT NOTES	16
PROGRESS OF NOTTINGHAM AND LEICESTER DEMAND SCHEMES	6	BIRMINGHAM DISTRICT NOTES	16
TELEPHONES: THE VIEWPOINT OF A SALES REPRESENTATIVE	7	THE LATE MR. C. F. MOODY	16
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE NOTES	7	REVIEWS	17
INTRODUCTION OF "DEMAND" TRUNK WORKING AT GLASGOW	8	GUILDFORD DISTRICT NOTES	17
PROGRESS OF THE TELEPHONE SYSTEM	9	WE TELEPHONISTS—"TALK OF MANY THINGS"	18
CORRESPONDENCE	9	GLoucester DISTRICT NOTES	18
TELEGRAPHIC MEMORABILIA	10	RETIREMENT OF MR. W. THYNE	19
THE POST OFFICE TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH SOCIETY OF LONDON	11	BELFAST DISTRICT NOTES	19
		THE G.P.O. PLAYERS	19
		LONDON TELEPHONE SERVICE NOTES	20

Subscription: To the public, 5s. 0d. per annum, including postage. To the Staff, 3s., including free delivery to any Post, Telegraph, or Telephone Office. Single Copies: To the Staff, Threepence each. Orders should be sent to the Managing Editor, TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE JOURNAL, G.P.O. North, London, E.C.1.

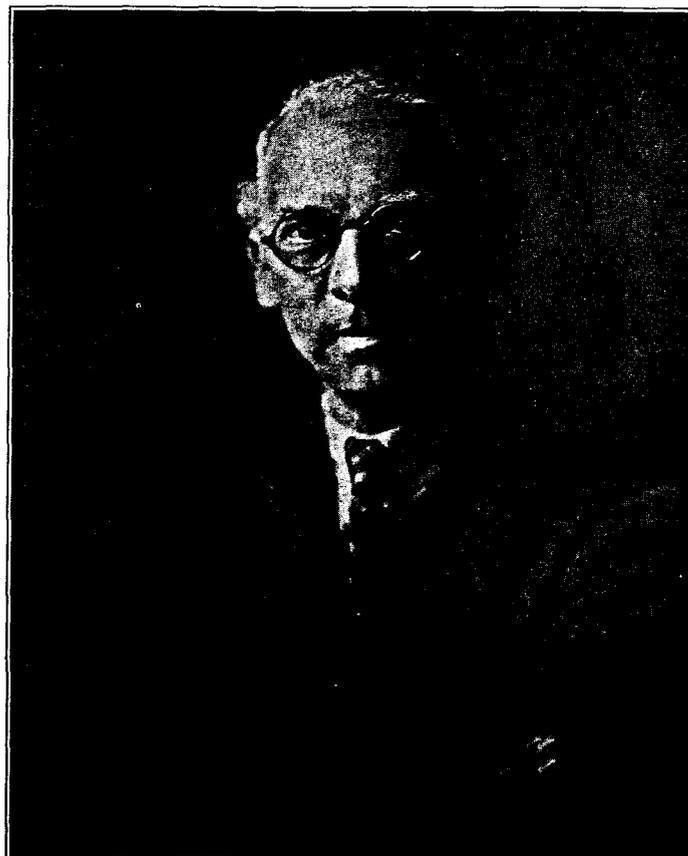
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TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE MEN AND WOMEN.

CXIII.

MR. B. R. MEAD.

MR. B. R. MEAD, whose portrait appears this month, joined the Post Office Service as a Counter Clerk and Telegraphist in 1900, and eight years later, passing the Supplementary Examination, was appointed to the Money Order Office. From there he was transferred to the London Telephone Service, and during the war suffered a metamorphosis from the grade of Clerk to Assistant Superintendent of Traffic, Class II, being promoted in 1925 to the first class, and went to Canterbury as District Manager in 1930. He possesses studious qualities and has a facility of expression, including a partiality for the



"honeyed" phrase which is perhaps only to be expected in one of his patronymic—qualities which stand him in good stead in the successful running of his district. Before going to his present post he lived at Chipping Barnet, and took an active interest in its rich associations of the past and in the administration of its old charities. He, therefore, finds life in the shadow of England's premier cathedral much to his liking, although he still retains a great fondness for London. In his leisure moments he keeps a garden as orderly as he keeps an office, and with car and camera manages to fill all "indirectly occupied time," as they say in telephone traffic circles. Mead's motto in all that he does is "Thoroughness."

THE Telegraph and Telephone Journal.

VOL. XX.

NOVEMBER, 1933.

No. 224.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE		PAGE
TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE MEN AND WOMEN (CXIV)—MAJOR J. F. DARBY ...	21	LEEDS DISTRICT NOTES ...	34
EDITORIAL:—		EDINBURGH NOTES ...	34
DOLLIS HILL ...	22	C.T.O. NOTES ...	35
HIC ET UBIQUE ...	22	THE OUTPOST END. By H. P. BONSER ...	36
OPENING OF THE POST OFFICE ENGINEERING RESEARCH STATION ...	23	WE TELEPHONISTS—"TALK OF MANY THINGS" ...	37
THE G.P.O. PLAYERS IN "THE MARQUISE." ...	23	FLEETWOOD CHARTER CELEBRATIONS ...	38
PROGRESS OF THE TELEPHONE SYSTEM ...	24	WESTERN DISTRICT NOTES ...	39
CAM YMLAEN. By J. J. EVANS ...	24	ABERDEEN DISTRICT NOTES ...	39
DEVELOPMENTS IN TELEVISION. By E. PHILLIPS ...	26	BRIGHTON NOTES ...	39
SCOTLAND (WESTERN DISTRICT) NOTES ...	28	MANCHESTER DISTRICT NOTES ...	40
LONDON TELEPHONE SERVICE NOTES ...	29	BIRMINGHAM DISTRICT NOTES ...	40
SOUTH WALES DISTRICT NOTES ...	31	NORWICH DISTRICT NOTES ...	41
TELEGRAPHIC MEMORABILIA ...	31	GUILDFORD DISTRICT NOTES ...	41
A SOUTH ESSEX REUNION ...	33	LONDON ENGINEERING DISTRICT NOTES ...	41
SOMETHING MORE THAN SAMPLES. By F. J. LANE ...	33	A BRIEF CHRONOLOGY FOR STUDENTS OF TELEGRAPHS, TELEPHONES AND POSTS. By HARRY G. SELLARS ...	42

Subscription: To the public, 5s. 0d. per annum, including postage. To the Staff, 3s., including free delivery to any Post, Telegraph, or Telephone Office. Single Copies: To the Staff, Threepence each. Orders should be sent to the Managing Editor, TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE JOURNAL, G.P.O. North, London, E.C.1.

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TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE MEN AND WOMEN.

CXIV.

MAJOR J. F. DARBY.

THE subject of our sketch entered the Secretary's Office in 1904 equipped with a liberal technical education. He received training as an exchange manager at Sheffield in 1913, returning to London later in that year to serve as Traffic Inspector in the newly-formed Headquarters Traffic Section. He was promoted to Assistant Inspector of Telephone and Telegraph Traffic, Class II, in 1916, and Class I in 1925. Last month he was appointed District Manager of the North Midland Telephone District. He represented Headquarters on a Commission sent to the United States in 1930 to investigate Long Distance Telephone methods and organisation. He has played a leading part in carrying into effect the recommendations of that Committee, viz.: the immediate introduction of demand working throughout the Long Distance Service of this country and has achieved a reputation as a



specialist in this field, notably by his thoroughness and energy and also by his cordial and successful co-operation with other colleagues in all spheres. His lectures and writings on the subject are probably well known to most of our readers.

Major Darby served four years in France with the Royal Engineers during the war, passing through the various ranks from Sapper to Acting Captain. He commanded No. 70 Motor Air-Line Section, and concluded as O.C. Signals, Douai-Valenciennes area. He has commanded a Signal Company for many years since the war and is now Second-in-Command of the 44th (Home Counties) Divisional Signals.

In his younger days he exercised the art of prestidigitator with astounding proficiency, juggling with balls and packs of cards with the same aptitude with which he handles trunk problems in his maturer years. Now much of his leisure is absorbed in writing articles, he finds time for relaxation in tennis, badminton and bridge. He enjoys horse-riding and has recently acquired a car.

THE Telegraph and Telephone Journal.

VOL. XX.

DECEMBER, 1933. (FINAL ISSUE.)

No. 225.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE		PAGE
TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE MEN AND WOMEN (CNV)—MR. W. H. GUNSTON	45	LEEDS DISTRICT NOTES	61
EDITORIAL:—		REVIEWS	62
A VALEDICTORY LETTER FROM THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL	46	MANCHESTER DISTRICT NOTES	62
OUR RECORD	46	EDINBURGH NOTES	62
THE WORLD'S TELEPHONES	48	COIN BOX MAKING. BY S. J. G.	63
"THE POST OFFICE MAGAZINE"	49	DEATH OF MR. J. F. ROONEY	64
HIC ET UBIQUE	49	WESTERN DISTRICT NOTES	64
POST OFFICE CARS IN THE LORD MAYOR'S SHOW	50	GLASGOW DISTRICT NOTES	64
THE PASSING OF MORSE. BY B. BRADLEY, B.Sc. HONS. (ECON.)	50	SCOTLAND (WESTERN DISTRICT) NOTES	64
THE LIGHTER SIDE	54	LONDON ENGINEERING DISTRICT NOTES	66
RETIREMENT OF MR. D. J. BARNES	55	LONDON TELEPHONE SERVICE NOTES	67
PROGRESS OF THE TELEPHONE SYSTEM	56	WE TELEPHONISTS—"TALK OF MANY THINGS"	69
TELEPHONE DEVELOPMENT OF THE WORLD AT THE END OF 1932.		BIRMINGHAM DISTRICT NOTES	70
By W. H. GUNSTON	56	A BRIEF CHRONOLOGY FOR STUDENTS OF TELEGRAPHS, TELEPHONES AND POSTS. BY HARRY G. SELLARS	70
BELFAST DISTRICT NOTES	58	C.T.O. NOTES	72
TELEGRAPHIC MEMORABILIA	59	SHEFFIELD DISTRICT NOTES	72
SOUTH WALES DISTRICT NOTES	61	GLOUCESTER DISTRICT NOTES	72

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TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE MEN AND WOMEN.

CNV.

MR. W. H. GUNSTON.

THE portrait gallery of notable men and women in the Telegraph and Telephone Service cannot be more appropriately brought to a close than by adding W. H. Gunston, whose hand and brain have guided this *Journal* since its birth in October, 1914, and who is primarily responsible for any success which it has achieved.

Born in 1873, Gunston was educated at a private school and joined the ranks of the National Telephone Company in May, 1892. He has thus had over 41 years of unbroken telephone service. When the *National Telephone Journal* was inaugurated in April, 1906, he was appointed first Sub-Editor, and then a year or two later Acting Editor. Transferred to the Post Office on Jan. 1, 1912, Gunston was the obvious choice as Managing Editor of this *Journal*; and he tackled with success a task which was most difficult owing to the outbreak of war before the appearance of its first



[Photograph by Howard Brooke, Rushey Green.]

number. Apart from his editorial duties, he has contributed many original articles to our pages; and his verse and prose are as familiar to our readers as they were to those of *Judy*, *Moonshine*, and other publications thirty years ago.

Fond of walking and dancing, Gunston has wandered over most of Western Europe; and as a linguist he has studied Omar Khayyam in the original. He finds pleasure in puzzling over Arabic and Persian texts and, as he puts it, in the acquirement of unremunerative knowledge generally.

Those who have been fortunate enough to be associated with him on the Editorial Committee will always carry with them the pleasantest recollection of his lovable personality; and in the columns of this *Journal* his happy turn of phrase, his kindly wit, and his scholarly handling of statistical data have won him the affection and respect of a wide circle of readers. He may look back on his official career with pride, and we wish him happiness in his coming retirement.