

RADIO

Airplane Passengers See Their Own Plane in Flight

By WATSON DAVIS

SEATED comfortably in an airplane circling for a landing, I watched that airplane flying in the air. As the United mainliner came in for a landing on the runway of Mayor LaGuardia's just dedicated North Beach Airport, with one glance through a window I could see the ground rushing up, with another glance at a magic mirror, I saw the airplane gliding downward.

The scientific wonder of television focused on a modern air transport carrying a television receiver made possible this Einsteinian sight. It was as though I had a giant telescope trained on a gigantic mirror which reflected all outdoors.

The RCA television set mounted in the airliner as conveniently as in a drawing room had been entertaining us with news and travel films. Then its screen showed the North Beach airport televised by NBC's mobile unit piping its signals to Station W2XBS, which sprayed them into space including our airplane. Soon a tiny airplane appeared on the screen. We were to watch ourselves land. A new sensation: To feel the jolt of wheels touching the runway just when you see them do it. Television and aviation pioneered another "first."

Television, infant entertainer, far-sighted prodigy, may play a role in war. When that telereceiver-carrying United Air Lines plane climbed some four miles over Washington carrying military and government officials to see NBC television broadcast from New York some 200 miles away, it suggested a reverse situation if war becomes even more scientific and mechanized than now. If the television transmitter were in the plane, riding high to the rear of enemy lines,



PLANE PASSENGERS SEE LANDING

if the receiver were at GHQ, generals might see with their own eyes, thanks to television, what the enemy is doing. Not an immediate prospect. Difficulties: Lack of extraordinary detail as on aerial photograph. The picture is fleeting and can't be studied. The cost and weight of television cameras and transmitters are great.

Science News Letter, November 11, 1939

MEDICINE

New Operation Relieves Severe Heart Attacks

A NEW OPERATION which relieves attacks of the dreaded, excruciatingly painful heart trouble called angina pectoris has been devised by Dr. Rupert B. Raney of Los Angeles. The operation is called a "hitherto undescribed surgical procedure" in Dr. Raney's report. (*Journal, American Medical Association, Oct. 28*)

The operation does not merely relieve

the pain of these heart attacks. It prevents the spasm of the heart's blood vessels which occurs during the attacks. Other operations for this kind of heart ailment relieve the pain but, Dr. Raney says, they are merely palliative and "do not attack the patient's real trouble."

His operation has given "complete relief" to eleven patients who had previously suffered from "desperate attacks of angina pectoris." One of the patients was a 72-year-old man whose heart had already been damaged by high blood pressure. Others suffered from conditions like high blood pressure and diabetes in addition to the angina pectoris. All eleven patients survived the operation and have had no further attacks of angina. In some cases it has been nearly two years since the operation was performed.

This operation, like others previously devised, cuts nerves running to the heart, but the difference between this and other operations is in the particular nerves cut.

Science News Letter, November 11, 1939

Many Japanese students in California are at least six inches taller than their parents.

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E. C. Whittier, of the U. S. Bureau of Dairy Industry, will discuss the possibilities of making wool from milk, as the guest scientist on "Adventures in Science" with Watson Davis, director of Science Service, over the coast to coast network of the Columbia Broadcasting System, Monday, November 20, 4:30 p.m., EST, 3:30 CST, 2:30 MST, 1:30 PST. Listen in on your local station. Listen in each Monday.