



Cutler-Hammer

STAGEHANDS TELEVISION — Stagehands at the Met will use a television monitor to guide them in opening and closing curtains. An engineer at Cutler-Hammer, Inc., Milwaukee, Wis., where the stage system was designed, is shown testing a prototype with an oscilloscope. The white area shows the curtain opening.

TECHNOLOGY

Stagehands at Met Will Be Aided by TV

► **STAGEHANDS** will be television viewers in the new Metropolitan Opera House, opening this September in New York.

Television screens will be used to tell how far curtains are open on a dark stage. The television sets, which use no cameras, simulate curtain openings from feedback voltage obtained from curtain position potentiometers. The potentiometers are connected to direct current motors which open the curtains.

The television monitors are part of an electronic stage control system specially designed for the Met by Cutler-Hammer, Inc., Milwaukee, Wis.

The \$45.7 million opera house, in the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, will also have one of the world's most automated stages. The large movable stages, weighing between 15 and 30 tons will be set offstage, then wheeled on automatically.

An automatic system in the loft above the stage will replace the usual counterweight method of raising and lowering scenery.

Speeds for raising and lowering scenery range from 1.8 feet to 180 feet a minute.

• Science News, 89:381 May 14, 1966



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TRANSPORTATION

Airbuses to Compete With Highway Buses

► **AIRBUSES** that take off and land vertically will be hauling passengers between cities in all sorts of weather in the northeastern United States by 1980, Dr. Rene H. Miller, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, predicted.

No technology not already under development would be needed to achieve a high-speed airbus system for mass transportation in the Boston-Washington Corridor within 15 years. The airbus system would have to operate directly from downtown centers and suburban stations and the VTOL airbuses would require minimum land for terminals instead of conventional airports with long runways.

The airbuses would charge fares close to those of the present intercity highway buses. A trip between New York and Boston would cost about \$8.80 one way. They would use turbine engines which have put long-haul operations of conventional planes on a practical, self-supporting, profit basis. Turbines would also make it possible for airbuses to operate economically.

Dr. Miller and his associates visualize VTOL craft capable of carrying 80 passengers. Speeds would be 400 to 450 miles an hour.

The network visualized by the study would require 50 terminals in 38 population centers between Boston and Washington.

Dr. Miller made his report to the Society of Automotive Engineers in New York.

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MEDICINE

New Non-Narcotic Drug Relieves Pain and Fever

► A NEW PRESCRIPTION drug recommended for persons sensitive to aspirin, called Dialog, has been developed by the Ciba Pharmaceutical Company, Summit, N.J., to relieve the pain of simple headache and neuralgia, and other pain, as well as to reduce fever caused by respiratory infections and influenza.

Dialog combines the sedative action of allobarbitol with pain-killing and fever-reducing effects of acetaminophen. It contains no salicylates or phenacetin.

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