

Television Broadcasters Licensed

Radiovision

Despite its recent hearing on television broadcasting, in which optimistic opinions were expressed as to the present possibilities of this form of radio, the Federal Radio Commission is not yet convinced that it can render real service comparable with sound broadcasting. In granting the licenses to eleven of some fifty applicants to take part in television broadcasting, the Commission has taken steps to insure that such activity shall be purely experimental.

The licenses are only issued for a period of six months, at the end of which time they will be automatically revoked. The broadcasters will have to make monthly reports of their activity, what scientific work they have done to advance the art, the exact times that they were on the air and the power used. Failure to perform any significant experimental work will be considered as grounds for cancellation of the license, as the Commission wishes to prevent anyone

broadcasting television primarily for the purpose of selling television receivers.

Four bands are allocated for radiovision, or "visual broadcasting", as the Commission calls it, including still pictures, radiomovies and scenes of living actors. These are from 2000 to 2100 and 2100 to 2200 kilocycles (approximately 136 meters to 150 meters), and 2750 to 2850 and 2850 to 2950 kilocycles (approximately 102 to 109 meters). No station may use a band wider than 100 kilocycles, which is ten times the width of the ordinary broadcast band and ample for satisfactory television reproduction according to engineers. A band of 2200 to 2300 kilocycles is also reserved for radiovision, and will be assigned in the future with the provision that no interference is caused thereby with Canadian stations, which use the same band for other purposes.

Among the licenses granted were three to the Radio Corporation of

America, in New York and New Jersey; two to the Jenkins Laboratory in Washington; one to the associated Jenkins Television Corporation of Jersey City; four to the Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Company, for stations at East Pittsburgh and Springfield, Mass., and two to the General Electric Co., for stations at Schenectady, N. Y., and Oakland, California.

Fifteen applications are still pending, and hearings will be held to determine "whether or not public interest, convenience or necessity would be fulfilled by granting of their applications." Three applications, those of the Shepard-Norwell Co., Boston; Frank L. Carter, Long Island City, N. Y.; and Boyd Phelps, Jamaica, N. Y., have been denied.

No television broadcasting will be allowed on any frequency in the broadcast band, except between 1 and 6 A. M.

Science News-Letter, March 9, 1929

Poisoning Investigated

Hygiene

The committee recently appointed by Surgeon General H. S. Cumming of the U. S. Public Health Service to study the problem of radium poisoning occurring in New Jersey factories has just met in Washington to consider plans for beginning the study. All details of method and procedure were discussed and decided upon. According to present plans the study will be finished about July 1.

Radium poisoning occurred among employees of luminous watch-dial factories in New Jersey, causing illness and death in some cases. While the poisoning cases occurred among the girls engaged in painting the dials, all employees were found to be exposed to radium in varying degree. The present study is to determine among other things just how much radium is absorbed by the bodies of the workers, how this will affect their health and what safeguards may be taken. About 200 persons are engaged in the industry. Detailed physical examinations of these individuals will be made. The committee consists of public health and other physicians, including members of medical school faculties.

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