

RADIO

Educational TV Boom

► AN UNEXPECTED boom in the educational television business has produced 12 applications for video stations so far. The Federal Communications Commission has just stamped a big O.K. on four of them.

Educational stations just approved are scheduled to serve Manhattan, Kans., and Albany, Buffalo and Rochester, N.Y.

FCC Commissioner Frieda B. Hennock told SCIENCE SERVICE that other applications for the educational stations have come in from California, Florida and Texas. New York still has five applications pending.

The FCC set aside 242 channels for educational television stations when it opened the ultra high frequency spectrum to television broadcasting last spring.

Miss Hennock said she is "thrilled" so far at the educational television boom. She said the Emerson Radio and Phonograph Corp. helped get the ball rolling when it

offered a \$10,000 grant to the first 10 educational licensees to begin regular operation.

Apparently the boom still is gaining momentum. New York state, trying to forge an educational TV network, has applied for reserved UHF channels to serve Syracuse, Binghamton, Ithaca, Utica and New York City in addition to the ones just approved. Plans for other stations in New York cities currently are in the mill.

The New York educational network will be used by public schools and colleges on a cooperative basis. Programs will originate all over the state and will be relayed to other network stations. Programs to be screened locally also are being planned.

Applications still pending are for stations to serve the San Francisco-Oakland area in California; Miami, Fla., and Houston, Tex.

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armpits, the scalp and hands. Thus the medical term for the condition, dermatophytosis, means any skin disease caused by fungi.

In prevention of ringworm of the feet, the medical Society advises careful attention to the areas between the toes, particularly in bathing and drying the feet. In washing, the toes should be separated and cleaned thoroughly but gently. The same procedure should be followed in drying the feet. This is important in all seasons of the year, but particularly during the summer months when humid and excessive heat cause the body to perspire more.

The top cells are constantly being replaced by new cells from the lower layers of the skin. If the dead surface cells are not removed, they, with the moistness natural to the area between the toes, create a field conducive to the growth of fungi.

Once the condition is noted, however, such as a dry scaliness of the skin, or cracks between the toes, a physician should be consulted because the infection can be transferred from one part of the body to another, and from one member of the family to another.

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METEOROLOGY

Automatic Observation

► TEMPERATURE, ATMOSPHERIC pressure and other weather information may be transmitted from an unmanned observation post through use of a new automatic radio weather station which has received a patent.

The meteorological instruments used at the automatic station affect an electrical circuit by varying its resistance as atmospheric conditions change. The readings on the instruments are translated in sequence into a succession of pulses. The time inter-

val between the initiation of the pulses is a measurement of the magnitude of the resistors and, thus, of the corresponding instrument readings.

The pulses emitted by the radio transmitter may then be recorded by a tape recorder in a receiving station.

The inventor is Harold J. McCreary, Lombard, Ill. He received patent number 2,605,343, which was assigned to the Automatic Electric Laboratories, Chicago.

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METEOROLOGY

Drought-Stricken South May Expect Relief Now

► HOPE FOR the drought-stricken South appears in the U. S. Weather Bureau's extended forecast for the month of August.

Over the eastern portions of the nation where drought has occurred in many areas, some relief is expected, but total rainfall for the month will not exceed seasonal normals, is the official forecast.

The "eastern portions of the nation" include, Weather Bureau spokesmen said, Georgia, Tennessee and the entire area where an emergency has been declared because of the drought.

It will still be hot even if this area gets rain enough to relieve the drought. The Weather Bureau's outlook is for temperatures averaging above seasonal normals for the western half of the nation and the deep South. Slightly cooler than normal temperatures are expected in the Lakes region and the North Atlantic states. In other areas temperatures not far from normal are indicated.

Subnormal rainfall is predicted for the Great Plains, western Gulf states and the Rocky Mountains, but substantial showers are expected in a belt extending from Arizona north to Oregon. This belt normally is very dry in the summer.

Science News Letter, August 9, 1952

Rare earth elements make up an appreciable fraction of the fission products of atomic piles.

Gum arabic, used as an adhesive agent in pills, candy and other dietary products, is at present imported from the Middle East.

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MEDICINE

Give Feet Special Care To Avoid Athlete's Foot

► GIVE YOUR feet special care during hot weather, to avoid getting ringworm of the feet, or athlete's foot as it is popularly called. This advice comes from the Illinois State Medical Society. This painful, itchy disorder gets its popular name because so many cases occur among people frequenting swimming pools, gymnasiums and shower rooms. But it can be picked up from the floor or tub of the bathroom at home if someone in the home has the infection.

The cause of the condition is believed to be infection with fungi, vegetable organisms similar to those causing the mold on stale bread. These organisms thrive on damp, moist areas of the skin and may lie dormant for months and even years. The condition is not confined to the feet, but may appear in any area of the body that is susceptible to moistness, such as the groin,