TELEPHONE RESEARCH ACTIVITIES REVIEWED



Audiometer

A modernized hearing meter, which permits measurements of hearing losses by physicians, hospitals and schools made at eight frequencies ranging from 64 to 8192 cycles, has been developed by the Bell Telephone Laboratories. Developments in various fields in recent years, according to R. Nordenswan, engineer, in the Bell Laboratories Record, have indicated that improved audiometers for this type of use could now be made, which besides having better characteristics of measurements, would be smaller, simpler to operate and less expensive.

New Microphone Circuit

The audiometer as described in the Record article has been designed for operation on the ordinary commercial 110-volt lighting supply, using either direct or alternating current. Other changes incorporated in the new audiometer extend its usefulness and widen its field of application. One of these features described, which is optional with the purchaser, is a microphone mounted just behind the front panel of the audiometer, with which the physician may talk to the patient directly through the receiver used for the test.

Where the impairment is of a serious nature, this is of great convenience. The microphone is cut into or out of the circuit by a switch on the front of the cabinet. The audiometer may also be arranged for use with either an air conduction or bone conduction receiver, so that the patient's hearing may be measured for both types of reception. Such a double measurement may give valuable information as to the cause of any hearing impairment that exists.

Air Conduction

A dynamic receiver is employed for the air-conduction measurements instead of the electromagnetic type formerly used. This gives somewhat higher efficiency and better hearing characteristics than the former type.

The cabinet of the improved audiometer is eight inches high by fifteen inches wide and eight inches deep, making it small enough to be carried around with ease.

Scientists and engineers of the telephone laboratories have been interested in audiometers for making hearing measurements for a number of years and about ten years ago developed a comparatively simple form of apparatus, used for making hearing measurements on a number of people simultaneously, such as school children or factory workers. The present equipment gives more complete measurements of hearing and has proved practical in the numerous tests made.

Opposition to High Schools

Opposition to permitting Boston girls to enter high schools in 1852, led to establishing of a normal school to equip them as teachers. The inadequacy of the plan soon became apparent, but it was 1872 before all of these girls were fully provided with a secondary education.

Indians Had Perfumes

The Blackfeet Indians of olden days used a number of perfumes, sweet grass being the most popular among the women. They also used beaver musk, red cedar, punk from the cotton-wood tree, buds from the balsam poplar and dried blossoms of dog fennel and meadow rue.

Turks Rewarded Arabs

When the Arab fought for the Turk in the World war, one wise Turkish general offered a reward for every prisoner an Arab brought in, basing the reward at a slightly higher sum than the pilfering of a corpse was likely to yield.

Robert Burns Wrote Songs

Robert Burns, the poet, wrote about 100 songs as accompaniments to the melodies of Scotland, and for these, which are now among the world's priceless possessions, he received the sum of 5 pounds.

First Patterns for Clothes

In 1863 Ebenezer Butterick, a tailor of Sterling, Mass., conceived the idea of making a set of men's graded shirt patterns. These were the first standardized patterns for clothes.

One Rifle Is Loaded

A firing squad for execution of a death sentence in the United States armed forces may consist of any number of men designated by the commander. One rifle is loaded.

New Orleans' Floodways

New Orleans is only 10 feet above the Gulf of Mexico, but its two floodways, through the Atchafalaya river and Lake Pontchartrain, protect it from the Mississippi floods.

Galapagos Islands Cattle

Cattle are not native to the Galapagos. They descended from live stock aboard buccaneer and whaling vessels whose masters, at various times, used the islands.

Acetylene, Colorless Gas

Acetylene, fuel gas used in the welding of metals, is a colorless compound of 7.75 per cent. hydrogen and 92.25 per cent. carbon.

England's Tiny Churches

England claims some of the smallest churches on record. A claim to be regarded as the smallest church has been advanced for the church of Cullone, on Exmoor. The measure of 30 feet long and 12 feet wide challenges the little Dorset church which is 23 feet by 14 feet, thus it is doubtful if there is any church in England smaller than this. Upleatham church in Yorkshire, whose present dimensions are given as 17 feet by 13 feet, is easily the smallest, but it is only a fragment of the original church.

"Captains Courageous" Magnificent And Stirring Version Of Kipling's Sea Epic



Freddie Bartholomew, Lionel Barrymore, Spencer Tracy in "Captains Courageous"

BARTHOLOMEW WINS NEW ACTING HONORS

Distinguished Portrayals By Spencer Tracy, Lionel Barrymore, Melvyn Douglas

"CAPTAINS COURAGEOUS," Rudyard Kipling's famed tale of the heroic Gloucester fishermen and the boy whom they regenerated through ideals of courage and humanity, comes to the New Lyceum Theatre on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, July 19, 20 and 21, in a spectacular, picturesque and compelling screen version by the company who gave the screen that earlier triumph of the sea, "Mutiny on the Bounty." And once again Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer has captured, in terms of camera magic, the spirit and beauty of the sea and of the men who go down to it in ships.

Backgrounded against the stirring and glamorous, ever-changing moods of the ocean, against the striking, tall-masted fishing schooners their sails unfurled to the breeze, showing step by step the fascinating and dangerous work of the Gloucester fishermen, and permeated with thrill after thrill from the moment its boy hero falls from the deck of an ocean liner to be picked up by a Portuguese fisherman, to the final race between two ships who want to be the first to return to port with the catch, the Kipling tale unfolds its narrative of a spoiled millionaire's son who is almost against his will taught a new way of life and a new respect for his fellowmen with a power and tenderness that easily ranks "Captains Courageous" as one of the most distinguished photoplays of this year or any other year.

Naturally, to succeed, a picture of such scope and high aims must have a director attuned to its purpose and a group of players able to interpret its characterizations with honesty and artistry. In this respect its producers did not fail. To the veteran and distinguished Victor Fleming was assigned direction of the Kipling narrative, and he has done a job of which he may well be proud, bringing out in bold strokes the character of the Gloucester fishermen and their interchanging fear and dominance of the sea.

As for the cast—it is as perfect as a cast can be. In a portrayal surpassing even his acclaimed role in "David Copperfield," the brilliant child star, Freddie Bartholomew, brings to life the spoiled hero of "Captains Courageous," making the boy a creature of warmth, sympathy and understanding. Equally effective is the outstanding work of Spencer Tracy as the Portuguese fisherman, Manuel, who is the first to instill ideals of manhood in his little protege's mind and who becomes his fast friend to the very end. Tracy, ever revealing new acting power, plays the virile, fighting Portuguese to the hilt and then adds a surprise by offering a half-dozen or more sailor chanteys in a pleasant if untutored baritone voice.

Then there is the always to be depended on Lionel Barrymore in a picturesque role as the ship's captain, and Melvyn Douglas in an effective and sympathetic part as the boy's father who only in the climax of the story is able to claim his son's affection. Of the supporting cast, too numerous to mention, there remains in one's mind the excellent work of Charley Grapewin as Uncle Salters, the delightful Mickey Rooney as the captain's son, Jack Larue, John Carradine, Walter Kingsford and Donald Briggs.

It is recalled that one of the longest location expeditions on record for authentic film settings began last fall for "Captains Courageous" when M-G-M combed the Atlantic seaboard from upper Newfoundland to the West Indies, filming fishing fleets in action. Scenes were shot at Port au Basque, Newfoundland; Canso, Liverpool and Sledon, Nova Scotia; Gloucester, Boston Harbor and Norfolk, Va. Other marine details were shot at Charleston and off the Cuba Keys. Out of all this the cameramen garnered some of the most beautiful, eye-arresting and interesting shots of fishing, waterfront life and the vicissitudes of the ocean that have ever been made for a motion picture. For this alone "Captains Courageous" would stand out as a magnificent film spectacle.

When you have, besides this, the stirring story of a human heart taught a new meaning of life and a new understanding of the world and its ways, acted to perfection by a group of the finest artists on the screen, you have a production that lives in your memory for years to come. Such a production is "Captains Courageous."



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