

# OUR BROADCASTING STATION

BY G. K. MILLER

WHEN approached for an article for this, our radio issue of Powergrams, the writer was at a loss as to just what phase of our broad field to write upon. It seems, though, that as we have had a success with our station with which our highest hopes never compared that every one would like to know just what we have here at W S Y and how we do it.

The interior views of the station shown elsewhere will give a fair perspective of our arrangements to start on, and now we will all make ourselves comfortable and look the situation over further.

We began assembling the set about the middle of last January with intentions of using it for purposes of operation of the system exclusively. The broadcasting feature came up, though, and materially changed our plans.

We began looking around, then, for a suitable location, and after considering several possibilities the present location, which is on Powell Avenue and between Nineteenth and Twentieth Streets, in Birmingham, was selected.

At first, only a small space was rented from the Southern States Equipment Company and the station installed. The work of installation required considerable time, as our radio linemen were few in numbers. We called upon Mac's gang, though, and as ever they proved that they could always put the job across, no matter what it was. A rather amusing situation arose out of this, though, for one of the gang, no names being mentioned, applied for the position of radio-patrolman. You'll have to get Mac to account for this, though.

As mentioned before, our space was small at first and not very much thought was given to the programs, but we began getting letters from points outside of Birmingham and then the situation took on new life. We had a visitor one night, no less personage than our president, Mr. Martin himself. He gave a short (four-minute) talk and after he had spoken to our "thousands of listeners" gave our station the once over. The next day we had carpenters, painters, inside wiremen, carpet-layers, and even piano-movers, and we built a whole studio in one day, and that night had more comfortable quarters for our artists.

Every day we made adjustments in our apparatus and no doubt those who had receiving sets about the last of April will remember something like this, "Hello Jones, Hello Gadsden,

Mary, Mary, quite contrary, 1, 2, 3, 4. How do you like the sound, etc., etc."

Well, letters began coming in faster and faster from enthused radio fans over the country and that was when the Publicity Department got busy and worked out the programs, as we have them now. Artists were gathered in from all parts, and it is still a mystery as to how it was done unless we can lay the credit at the feet of Mr. Balwin's able assistant, Mr. Dick Johnson, who ever since his rat days at Auburn had a way of his own with the ladies.

We have been on the look out for improvements all along, and even since the pictures were made there has been the addition of a power amplifier, 400-volt storage battery, filters, etc., which have improved our transmission very materially, and it is very gratifying indeed to have the favorable comments we have had from Florida, New York, Michigan, Kansas and Oklahoma.

The station has been in operation continually from the first, and judging from reports our transmission has become more and more perfect. The improvements that have been made have been aided greatly by the assistance of Mr. P. C. Pogue, only a few months with the company, with always the guiding hand and watchful eye of our superintendent of distribution, Mr. G. H. Middlemiss, who is directly responsible for this new development.

To go into detail about methods of voice transmission, how it is amplified and how the high frequency antenna current is generated and modulated would require a technical article of great length. From the photographs you can see our general layout and the writer would take genuine pleasure in going into more detail with those who care to give our station the once over. While in Birmingham let's get acquainted.

(Continued from page 13)

world to conduct a service by wireless was the Herron Avenue Presbyterian of Pittsburg, Pa., early in 1921. This experiment proved so successful that a great number of churches in different parts of the country are now conducting their services by wireless.

Few realize the wonderful work being done in this as well as other parts of the world by the Secret Service of the Air in apprehending criminals.

Plans are now under way in England to

develop radio on a large scale, but along different lines from the recent expansion in America. Up to this time the British postoffice department has made the use of radio apparatus by private persons almost impossible, owing to the licensing system which applied both to receiving sets and to sending apparatus.

As soon as restrictions are removed, it is understood that the Marconi company will establish a large transmitting station, and that receiving apparatus will be loaned out at a charge which will probably not be more than that of the ordinary telephone installation.

In the meanwhile, in Alabama U. S. A., W S Y is doing its utmost to render a service to the people and carry on at the same time research work to benefit radio development, and to make possible its application to the operation of transmitting lines and generating stations in central station industry.

---