

Radio Astronomy ■ Radio Commerce ■ Industrial Luxury

JANUARY 1953

RADIO TELESCOPES—“As the sky has been plotted in greater and greater detail with radio telescopes of improved resolving power, it has become clear that the regions with the greatest concentrations of stars generate the most intense radio waves. Even in our present state of uncertainty regarding the source of the radio waves, this relationship is of the utmost importance to astronomy. The work needs high resolution, and this requires very large radio telescopes. The new telescope at Jodrell Bank station of the University of Manchester, England, is based on the radio telescope which has been in use there for several years, but it will be much bigger, and it can be trained on any part of the sky.”

TREATING SCHIZOPHRENICS—“In the face of the overwhelming size of the problem, most psychiatrists today are disposed to resort to the quick, drastic treatments developed during the past 20 years—shock treatments of various kinds (with electricity, Metrazol, insulin, carbon dioxide) or prefrontal lobotomy. Although they produce dramatic immediate results, after years of experience it has now become clear that the results are often temporary; a large proportion of shock-treated patients sooner or later relapse. Within the past 10 years more psychiatrists, especially among the younger ones, have been treating schizophrenia by psychotherapy. In recent years it has been shown that, contrary to Freud’s early conclusion, it is possible to achieve a workable transference relationship between a schizophrenic and his therapist. The treatment takes at least two years, and usually longer; it is incomparably more expensive than the quick method of shock treatments.”

JANUARY 1903

WIRELESS WONDER—“On a barren headland on the eastern shores of Cape Breton, Canada, a few days before Christmas, Guglielmo Marconi exchanged mes-

sages of congratulation by wireless telegraphy with some of the crowned heads of Europe. That the brilliant young Anglo-Italian should stand to-day prepared to transmit commercial messages across the Atlantic, must be regarded as certainly the most remarkable scientific achievement of the year.”

USEFUL FOR DRUNKS—“A prize of £50 was offered at the Grocers’ Exhibition in London for a safe kerosene lamp, that is, for those who use lamps as missiles. The

not, at the same time, burn down his house and set fire to his children.”

JANUARY 1853

FRUITS OF INDUSTRY—“The Providence (R.I.) Journal laments, with rueful voice, the inordinate progress of luxury: ‘The sum necessary, now, to set up a young couple in housekeeping, would have been a fortune to their grandfathers. The furniture, the plate, and the senseless gewgaws with which every bride thinks she must decorate her home, if put into bank



desire of the directors was to produce a cheap lamp, which could be sold even in the poorest districts, and which could be used with the maximum of safety. One of the most serious problems of London was how they could protect those afflicted with drunkenness against themselves. They wanted to find a lamp which, if thrown by a drunken man at his wife or children, would automatically put itself out, so that the man, if he unfortunately inflicted any injury on his wife, should

stock at interest, would make a handsome provision against mercantile disaster. The taste for showy furniture is the worst and the most vulgar of all. The man who would not rather have his grandfather’s clock ticking behind the door, than a gaudy French mantel clock in every room in his house, does not deserve to know the hour of the day.’ Yet while we agree with some of its remarks, we dissent from others. We like to see progress in building, dress, and everything that is not immoral.”