Television Broadcasting in England

Official television broadcasting is about to begin in Great Britain, operated on the Baird system which recently came through exhaustive tests before the postmaster-general and a parliamentary committee. Mr. Baird's results are said to be all that the average man could desire, except, of course, the absence of color, and a size, which has the appearance of being about one-third that of life.

The drawing on the opposite page features the scanning disk or "reproducing wheel" in particular, and the upper left units A, B, C and D show how the spots of light passing the spiral of holes completely traverse the subject. These sketches incidentally show the famous tobacco-smoke test, the graduations being transmitted with exceptional clearness.

The transmitting end of the apparatus is diagrammed below and the receiving televi sor at the upper right in the full-page illustration. Certain secret details recently developed by Mr. Baird are not brought out in the illustrations; for example, there is a double spiral of scarcely discernible holes in some of the disks employed, and a really efficient synchronizing gear is now operated at the hub of the scanning disk.

Some remarkable effects are produced by this television apparatus, as shown in the various sketches. When adjustments prior to transmission are taking place, effects known as "rain" or "confetti" may be seen in the televi sor similar to those shown in Figs. 1 and 2. In the latter the image may be almost blotted out by a shower of spots of light. The subject, seated before the photo-electric cells at the transmitter in the lower illustration, experiences a dazzling sensation as the swiftly moving pencils of light traverse her face. The reflected light is converted into like current fluctuations by the photo-electric cells and broadcast as such, in the same manner as voice and music are handled by a microphone, and the sound is transmitted as electrical impulses of corresponding fluctuations.

This "televisor" is the commercial installation that will shortly be seen in many English homes. Housed in a neat console, the apparatus consists of a suitable radio set, speaker for vocal announcements and regular broadcast programs as well as the equipment for picture reception. The images are viewed through the lens shown at the right, and the speaker grill is located at the left.
Upper Right, Sectional Diagram Showing Television Receiver in Operation; the Observer Views the Image through the Lens at Right; Below, Transmitter, Showing Pencils of Light Traversing the Subject Transmitted to the Receiver Above.