THE BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION

ANNUAL REPORT

THE annual report for 1961–62 of the British Broadcasting Corporation* welcomes the recent White Paper, *Broadcasting: Memorandum on the Report of the Committee on Broadcasting*†, in so far as it affects the B.B.C., while noting that the Government accepts responsibility to see that the Corporation secures sufficient income to carry out its additional tasks. With the report are published the accounts for the year ended March 31, 1962, showing an income from licence revenue of £36·7 million, expenditure of £13·55 million on operating the sound service, and £20·2 million on the television service, with a grant-in-aid totalling £7·38 million for the External Services.

Immediate steps were taken towards bringing into operation at the earliest possible date the Government's proposals for more hours of sound broadcasting, a second television programme (see following article), a start to colour television, more Welsh and Scottish television and more educational programmes for adults on the present television service. The growth of external broadcasting is particularly stressed, and over the past ten years the combined output of the twelve major countries broadcasting to external audiences has more than doubled, although in the same period the output of the Corporation has declined. The field is now led by the U.S.S.R., the Soviet satellite countries, the Voice of America and Communist China—the last mentioned displacing Britain from the fourth position in 1962. Much of the increased output is directed towards the Asian countries, those of Latin America and the emergent countries of Africa. For this reason, the Corporation warmly welcomes the Government's approval early in 1962 of a major programme of relay-transmitter building which will increase the range and effectiveness of some of the Corporation's transmissions overseas. Some services elsewhere, however, were cut, and the closing down of operations in the United States is particularly regretted. The Governors record their conviction that it is in the national interest that these external services should be maintained over a broad front. Reference is again made to selective jamming of the Corporation's Russian service and to deliberate full-scale jamming of the Hungarian, Rumanian, Bulgarian, Kuoyu and Cantonese services.

Commenting on sound programmes, the report notes the success which attended the concentration into brief space of a series of broadcasts on the Third Programme: for example, a series of scientific broadcasts on "Quanta and Reality" were repeated in a single evening, and five talks and a discussion entitled "Strategy of Survival" were concentrated into two evenings in one week. Much of the year was occupied with preparations for the first trans-Atlantic programme exchanges in association with the Post Office, other European broadcasting organizations and the sponsors of the American communications satellites. The Corporation was also engaged in extensive research into the potential of local broadcasting in Britain. The direct contribution to further education was mainly through broadcasts on Network Three, designed to meet the needs and interests of various minority groups; a new Saturday morning television series, "Science on Saturday", introduced in the summer of 1961, was a first step towards meeting the needs of those wishing to use television for the planned study of science by adults.

Reception in many parts of the United Kingdom continued to be unsatisfactory because of interference from foreign stations, and although certain technical measures taken improved matters to some extent, with the present overcrowding of the medium wave-band there is nothing further that the Corporation can do to reduce the effect of the interference. The Corporation continued to develop its very-high-frequency services, which are virtually free from interference, and it is estimated that about 4·6 million very-high-frequency receivers are now in use. Much was done during the year to achieve greater reliability and precision in the performance of broadcasting apparatus, and transistor and printed circuit techniques promise great increased reliability and possibly considerable savings in maintenance. Preparations were made for the new series of experimental 625-line transmissions on the very-high-frequency Bands IV and V, including both black-and-white and colour television to begin in the autumn of 1962, and attention has also been turned to the propagation of ultra-high-frequency signals over the sea. With a change in the pattern of engineering recruitment, arising from an increasing demand for engineers in proportion to technical assistants, the Corporation has been less able to meet its full need of engineers by internal promotion. Besides a higher recruitment of qualified men, the Corporation has stepped up its scheme of sandwich courses, but the training facilities have been much more heavily loaded in consequence. Staff at March 31, 1962, numbered 17,125 full-time and 887 part-time, compared with 16,375 and 1,140 in 1960–61.

SECOND TELEVISION PROGRAMME

The opportunities in planning the British Broadcasting Corporation's second television programme are outlined in extracts from an address given at the University of Leeds by Mr. K. Adam, director of B.B.C. Television, and now published in the *B.B.C. Record* (No. 15; November 1962). The second programme is expected to start in April 1964 on 625 lines in very-high-frequency from Crystal Palace and to have reached the North of England by the summer of 1965. It is proposed to begin with at least 25 h of fresh material per week, concentrating on the peak hours each evening with extra hours at the week-end, and in any one evening to cater in depth for a special section of the total audience by, for example, a long play, a feature film, a full-length broadcast of sport, edited versions at length of political and scientific conferences or open-ended discussions. It is uncertain what transmission standards of colours will be used, and Mr. Adam pointed out that colour will always be very expensive and may never average more than one or two hours a night. It is hoped to recruit new writers and to encourage new styles of writing, and Mr. Adam also referred to the possible organization of programmes in collaboration with universities and learned societies.

Science must have its full place in this second programme, and a working group has been set up which will be visiting all regional headquarters to ensure that regional studios are used to their maximum capacity in 1964. In *B.B.C. Record* (No. 16; January 1963) further details are given of production plans which contemplate at least three more London production studios by April 1964, with a fourth to permit expansion to 30 h. Colour transmissions will start before the end of 1964 and the first major production studio at the Television Centre equipped for colour should come into operation in the autumn of 1965, Two-thirds of the population should be receiving the new programme in 1966. The Liaison Committee set

* The British Broadcasting Corporation. Annual Report and Accounts for the year 1961–62. (Cmnd. 1839.) Pp. 166+16 photographs. (London: H.M.S.O., 1962.) 10*s*. net.

† *Broadcasting: Memorandum on the Report of the Committee on Broadcasting*, 1960. Pp. 12. (Cmnd. 1770.) (London: H.M.S.O., 1962.) 1*s*. 3*d*. net. [See also *Nature*, **195**, 927; 1962.)

up, with Mr. J. S. Fulton as chairman, to guide the Corporation in providing adult education programmes was to hold its first meeting on January 30.

In the first of a series of lunch-time lectures at Broadcasting House, published as *B.B.C. Lunch-time Lectures—I*, Mr. L. Miall discussed the future of B.B.C. Television after explaining why a new service must be started in what are, for the Corporation, quite new and more difficult broadcasting bands—the very-short- or the ultra-high-frequency bands known as *IV* and *V*. These bands will involve, in effect, new sets for viewers but will give much more space to accommodate new programmes. Mr. Miall emphasized that the process of changing over and building new transmitters, which will gradually carry the Corporation to all parts of the country, is a huge engineering task, involving a capital cost likely to exceed £40 million and building and operating more than 250 new transmitters as well as many low-powered booster transmitters. Co-siting with the Independent Television Authority is essential if the amenities of the countryside are not to be damaged excessively. In indicating some of the plans for new programmes, Mr. Miall concluded by stressing the necessity of avoiding any debasement of the medium.

Lecture 2 dealt with B.B.C. news and current affairs, and, after claiming that the Corporation endeavours to achieve a balance between what the public wants and what the maturer members of the public needed, Mr. D. Edwards forecast great developments in relation to science, which more and more provides news. The Corporation hopes to help the increasing number of scientists, and, besides building up the number of its science producers, he thought that the Corporation would provide in its second television programme a regular programme, doing for science what "Monitor" has done for the Arts. A third lecture, by M. Pulling, on "International Television" pointed out that viewers in Britain saw less of *Eurovision* than viewers in many other European countries. However, while the complete elimination of the 405-line standard in Britain and the 819-line system in France would take many years, an important improvement would result both in the quality of pictures from other countries seen in Britain and in those from Britain seen in other countries: benefit would begin with the start of the second television programme. Finally, the facilities offered by a successful satellite communications system seemed sufficiently attractive to justify the immense efforts required.

THE LEVERHULME TRUST

THE fourth report of the Leverhulme Trust covers the years 1959–61, in which grants and awards totalling £885,000 were committed as compared with £593,000 during the previous triennium*. While the expansion is due to a widening of the field of interest of the Trustees, the general policy remains one of initiating new ventures, and neither capital grants for buildings or equipment nor general appeals are considered.

The primary concern is still fellowships and scholarships, and, of the total, 42 per cent has gone to universities and other forms of higher learning and 21 per cent to medical research. Of the £371,150 for universities, £104,400 was for overseas visiting fellowships and £50,000 for fellowships in general research at the University of Liverpool. £6,600 went to the Department of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Surgery at the University of Bristol for research into digestibility and into anæsthesia in domestic animals; £5,100 for biochemical research on the cell nucleus at the University of Edinburgh; £13,500 to the University of Hull for research fellowships on Commonwealth studies; £12,950 to the London School of Economics for scholarships and research awards; £15,000 to the Institute of Education, University of London, for an advanced training course concerned with the use of mass media, and £3,300 to the Institute's Research Unit for Student Problems. The University College of South Wales and Monmouthshire received £10,000 for business administration fellowships, the University College of Swansea £9,000 for research scholarships in social science, the University of Manchester £4,400 for an extension of research fellowships and studentships at Jodrell Bank Experimental Station, and £11,600 was provided for overseas visiting fellowships for the Manchester and Glasgow Colleges of Science and Technology. Besides £31,500 for a professorship in geology at the University of the Punjab, £9,000 went to the Kenya College of Social Studies for the salaries of two tutors, and £5,000 for overseas visiting fellowships for the universities of Holland.

Awards totalling £46,550 to learned societies and research institutions include £2,000 to the Acton Society for its inquiry into the role of the arts graduates in industry; £6,000 to the British Association for research on the Lowenfeld–Dienes method of teaching mathematics; and £19,900 to Political and Economic Planning for its study of trade unions in a changing society and £4,100 for its study of international government. The Institute of Community Studies received £4,000 towards various research projects which include various studies in depth of the experience of students at Cambridge, Manchester and Southampton of factors determining the choice of specialization, the compatibility of effective vocational training with a broader intellectual education, comparative quality of different methods of teaching, the effect of halls of residence, living in college, and unions and societies on vitality of the university and relations between staff and students, and the Institute of Strategic Studies £3,250 for the salary of a research assistant.

Of the awards totalling £184,900 for medical research, £90,000 was to the African Research Foundation in East Africa for cancer research, £28,000 to the East Grinstead Research Trust for a research fellowship and laboratory assistants, and £3,900 to the Department of Education of the Deaf, University of Manchester, for research on hearing aids for children. Grants for research fellowships included £5,150 to the Institute of Dental Surgery, £6,000 to St. Mary's Hospital Medical School, and £6,900 for a surgical research fellowship at Guy's Hospital. The Royal College of Surgeons received £12,000 for continuation of a research fellowship in the Faculty of Anæsthetists, and £6,000 for continuation of one in the Department of Physiology; the Institute of Laryngology and Otology £4,050 to extend research on the physiology of hearing and balance into the central nuclei and tracks in the brain, and University College Hospital Medical School £5,000 for the interchange of students between London and Ibadan. Various other grants were to the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, including £9,000 for secondment to Makerere College, Uganda, £3,000 to the Ross Institute, and £2,500 to the Human Nutrition Research Unit.

Besides awards of £3,000 for archæology, miscellaneous grants included £12,000 to the Commonwealth Society for the Deaf for training African students as teachers of the deaf, £15,000 to the Royal Commonwealth Society for Voluntary Services Overseas, £7,500 to the Educational Interchange Council for Research Scholarships, and £32,500 to the National Bureau for Co-operation in Child Care.

* The Leverhulme Trust. Fourth Report of the Leverhulme Trustees, 959–1961. Pp. 61. (London: The Leverhulme Trust, 1962.)