

refined form (system Memocard) makes today a convenient, simple and effective system where cost is all-important. Automatic reproduction from cards provides accurate performance night after night of complicated lighting cues. Three card readers and individual dimmer levers per channel allow for rapid succession of cues and for modification as necessary. Recording on the cards can be manual or automatic. An advantage of these punched cards is that they can be read visually without the need to put them in the machine at all. Also they constitute both the long term and short term store, it being only necessary to go to the drawer or shelf to obtain the pack representing the particular show. An example of system Memocard is to be seen in the photograph below of the Allardyce Nicoll Studio for the drama department of Birmingham University. In addition to several overseas installations one of 150 channels is under construction for the Kings Theatre, Edinburgh.

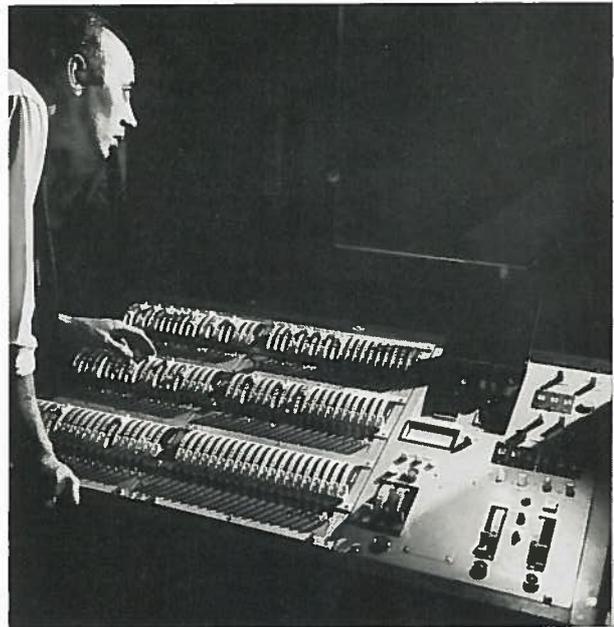
The most sophisticated form of control uses magnetic memory equipment to record both the long



Rank Strand Memocard control system for 100 channels in the Allardyce Nicoll Studio, Birmingham University. Masters are seen centre under window, channel controls on left and card readers and patching controls on right.

term and short term stores. Access is so fast as to cause imperceptible delay and in consequence the use of the term "instant" is justified. Rank Strand system IDM (Instant Dimmer Memory) in its latest form system MSR is recommended as the stage lighting control with a memory. A large number of these are installed and, for example, are to be found in the London Coliseum (home of the Sadler's Wells Opera), the Haymarket Theatre and the Globe, London. Basically IDM/DL resembles a normal control with a standard dimmer lever per channel. As each stage lighting picture is composed it can be instantly "memorised" thus cutting out all plotting delays—three hundred cues in full detail being recorded. Playback only involves calling up the cue number and operating the cross-fader. An

alternative to dimmer levers is rocker control to each channel, as used on the two very large instant memory systems in the theatres of the National Arts Centre, Ottawa. Rank Strand Electric Instant Dimmer Memory systems represent the ultimate in control for the theatre.



Rank Strand System IDM in the Globe Theatre, London. The 120 levers for the dimmer channels are on the left and the memory playback masters on the extreme right.



Rank Strand System DDM. Individual rocker tablet controls for 240 channels are on the wing. Dimmer memory controls and numerical selector to break sequence is on the left of the desk and the playback controls on the right.