a Mercury Discharge Lamp mounted in a standard Stage Floodlight such as the SFL or MFL units. Fluorescent Tubes provided with Woods glass filters are also often used for Discotheques and Cinema applications. It should be pointed out, however, that U.V. Lamps used for medical purposes should not be used on the stage, as they can damage the eyes and skin as eyeballs fluoresce under this type of light.

LINNEBACH EFFECT

This effect is simply the creation of shadows, the principle behind the effect being the projection of a shadow on to the Cyclorama. A 100-watt Lamp or similar light source is used in a simple box or housing without Lens or Reflector, and the slide or object is placed in front of the beam produced, such that its shadow can be directed across the backcloth. The slide and light source can be mounted separately, in fact this is often necessary to ensure clear outlines. Slides can be made up with a combination of colour filters and silhouettes to produce an outline against a sky on the cloth. This type of Effect can prove to be an interesting experiment within its own right, but it must be remembered that light spill from the Acting Area will destroy the illusion and therefore plenty of free stage space may be necessary.

FIRE AND FIRELIGHT

For normal domestic type sets it is difficult to create a real moving fire effect that can be seen in competition with the stage lighting. Practical properties are available on hire, but it is far better to use a small spot or flood hidden in the fire opening which, when lit, will light up the back of the fireplace and project light across the stage. A filter, using a mixture of red/amber should be fitted to give the correct tint.

For large scale effects, optical discs can be hired which project a flickering flame on to a backing and these can be used in conjunction with general stage lighting to represent a major conflagration.

CYCLORAMAS

The Cyclorama can be defined as follows:—

A vertical surface finished matt white which is used to form a background to a theatre type set. It helps to give depth to a scene and can be constructed of solid material as a permanent fixture or supplied as a removable cloth.

NOTE: When tinted blue, it is commonly referred to as a sky cloth.

Cycloramas vary considerably, from the large wrap-round type used on the opera stage to the lightweight cloth used in a Village Hall. However, they are all required to have one basic common factor, A SMOOTH MATT WHITE SURFACE which will allow good even reflection of all lighting effects. Alternative finishes to the cloth will not give true colour reflection, the degree of reflection depending on the background colour chosen. Blue is a popular colour and should be used only if the cloth is designed for sky effects. The Blue pigment in the paint enhances the blue light used to illuminate the cyclorama, compensating to some degree the lack of blue in the spectrum range of the normal tungsten filament lamp. Lit by any other colour however, reflection from the cloth will be poor or non-existent. (See Notes on Colour.)

In a multi-purpose area or end stage it is often possible to use a rear wall as a cyclorama provided this has a flat plaster surface, free from obstructions such as radiators, pipes, windows, clocks etc. Here liaison with Architects and Planners in the early design stages will avoid this kind of treatment which, unfortunately, arises all too often.

Where the cyclorama is made from scenic canvas care should be taken to ensure all seaming is horizontal to minimise shadow. The cloth should be weighted to remove creases and initially the canvas should be treated with a flat emulsion paint to fill up the pores in the cloth and provide a smooth surface. Canvas is available in varying widths to suit stage applications. There are alternative materials which can be considered, although these serve a dual purpose and are more applicable to television situations, so in general scenic canvas is preferred.

Where stage areas lack depth the cyclorama should be kept flat and allowed to run parallel to the rear wall. Curved ends tend to restrict entrances at the rear and reduce acting space. Considerable thought should always be given to the introduction of a curved cloth as this presents problems from the lighting viewpoint, lanterns are not always the same distance from the cloth so patchiness at the sides can occur if sufficient care is not taken.

Removable cyclorama cloths can be supplied in two forms—

(*a*) Roller type.