

operation and maintenance of a Strand Light Console. There followed a period of National Service with the R.A.F.

In 1948 Mr. Birch joined the staff of the Strand Electric Branch in Manchester where his experience has been widely varied in both Sales and Hire departments. He is thoroughly familiar with the practical lighting problems of the professional and amateur stages and has had valuable experience of the lighting practice and systems of lighting control in television studios. He is also well known for his work at the National and International Eisteddfodau in Wales.

As soon as possible he will live in the North-East, probably in Darlington. In the meantime he will continue to operate from Manchester.

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STAGE LIGHTING ON B.B.C. TELEVISION

On Monday, March 7th last, the B.B.C. Children's magazine programme "Focus" dealt with "Stage Lighting" as one of a series of programmes on the subject of the theatre.

Mr. John Neville introduced Frederick Bentham as the expert and the latter proceeded to talk about the three main classes of lantern, floods, soft edge spots and hard edge profile spots. Mr. Bentham demonstrated the basic difference in the optical systems, using Patt. 123 and Patt. 23 die-cast lanterns, neatly cut in half—lens and all, specially made for the programme at our Vauxhall works. Similar lanterns were lit to show the nature of the beams of light and the results of spot lighting and floodlighting shown using a model on a stage.

Mr. Bentham went on to demonstrate first a 12-way (HA.12) Junior Board with six slider dimmers, one of which had its cover removed to show how it worked. The need to be able to group up circuits and dimmers was stressed and shown first with a 24-way (JS/W24) bracket handle board and then with the 120-way CD console for the Savoy Theatre (described elsewhere in this issue). By cutting in film made in the dimmer room of the adjacent Riverside I Studio, viewers saw how clutch-operated dimmers worked from the miniature levers on the console. The programme ended with some common stage lighting changes faked for television by the Lighting Supervisor, using the Strand electronic control, with which the B.B.C. Riverside II Studio is equipped.

The programme was produced by Leonard Chase with Bryan Izzard as associate producer and provided us with an excellent opportunity to sample at first hand the care taken by the B.B.C. with their children's programmes.