

"Walkie-Talkies" practicable for short range have been developed and put to a variety of uses. It is interesting to observe that In 1940, for experimental purposes, the Bell Laboratories put together a telephone set equipped with a very-short-range radio to eliminate the need for a telephone cord.



You can imagine at some future time the lady of the house taking the telephone with her as she goes for a walk in the garden, and making and receiving her telephone calls there.

Auxiliaries to Telephone Service

The experimental cordless telephone set is one illustration of the fact that the development of new devices and the development of customers' needs combine to bring a continuing change in the services offered in connection with ordinary telephone usage. This is far too great a field to cover generally, but two or three illustrations of this type of development will be of interest.

For quite a long time, the telephone companies have offered, in various parts of the country, several forms of answering service; i.e., means whereby telephone calls will be answered and messages taken when the subscriber is absent. With the great improvement of automatic recording and reproducing systems, it now appears to be practicable to offer that type of service with automatic devices. The development of types of equipment suitable for this purpose is at an early stage. The experiments which we have been conducting, however, seem to indicate that this should have a field of usefulness in the future.



An answering and recording set, useful in the subscriber's absence

Looking ahead, additional auxiliary devices to meet special telephone requirements are to be expected. One example is the distant-talking set, whereby one talks and listens to a box on his desk without holding anything in his hand and without operating a switch to change from talking to listening. To provide good general service with such a device involves formidable technical difficulties, but it is to be expected that these will be overcome. Provision for conference calls has been a part of telephone service for years—that is, calls in which a group of people in various parts of the country can be connected together so that all hear what each one says. Looking forward, great improvements can be made in this service.



An experimental "distant talking" set: you would speak to it and listen to it without holding or switching anything