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THE MARCONIGRAPH

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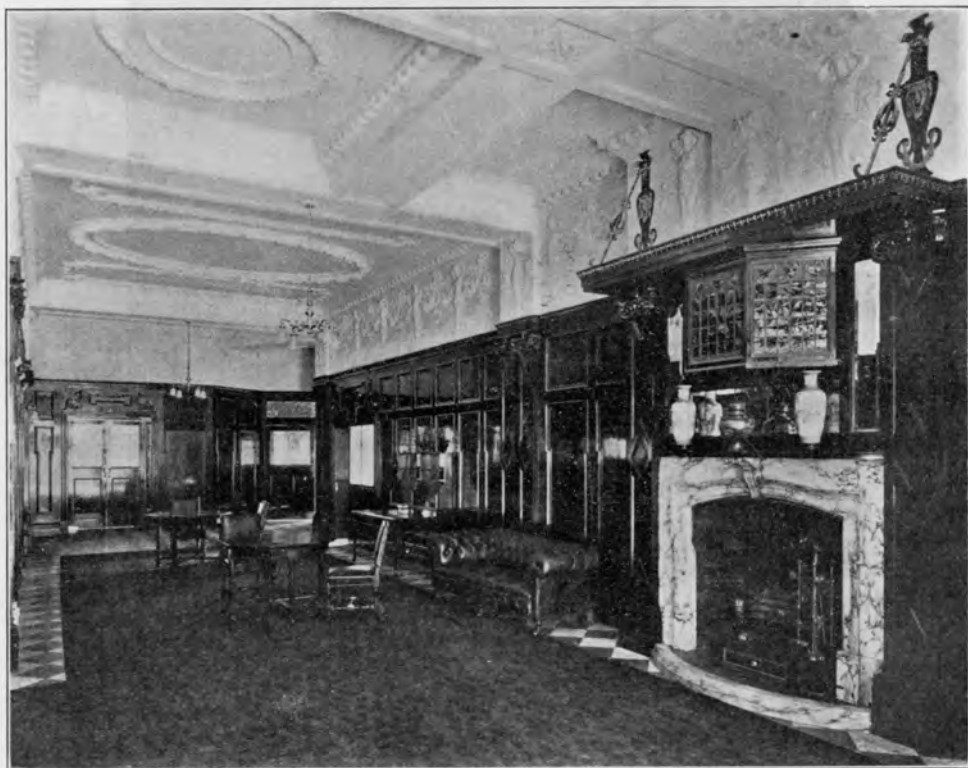
The Home of Wireless

A Glimpse of the Building Occupied by the Parent Marconi Company in London

THE new Marconi headquarters in London stand as a monument to the progressiveness of the entire organization and effectively demonstrate what can be accomplished when master minds combine to secure efficiency without sacrificing tastefulness. Situated on the Strand, the main thoroughfare in London, the imposing building which houses the business offices of Marconi's Wireless Telegraph Co., Ltd., cannot fail to impress the passerby as being a fitting home for one of the most important commercial undertakings of the century. The exterior presents the

massive proportions of the Florentine period of the Italian Renaissance, bold masses thickly fenestrated and surmounted by a carved frieze; the whole treatment stamping it as one of those restrained and dignified efforts of a great artist in architecture.

The artistic atmosphere of the whole design strikes one immediately on entering the main waiting hall near the entrance. This is paneled in the most beautiful fashion with Honduras mahogany, the fireplace being an important feature of the design. The frieze is a deep plaster cast setting, and the ceiling is richly ornamented. On the left-hand



The main waiting hall is paneled with Honduras mahogany.

side of the hall is a small counter at which marconigrams can be received for transmission to all parts of the world. Next to that is a public telephone for the use of visitors waiting to keep ap-

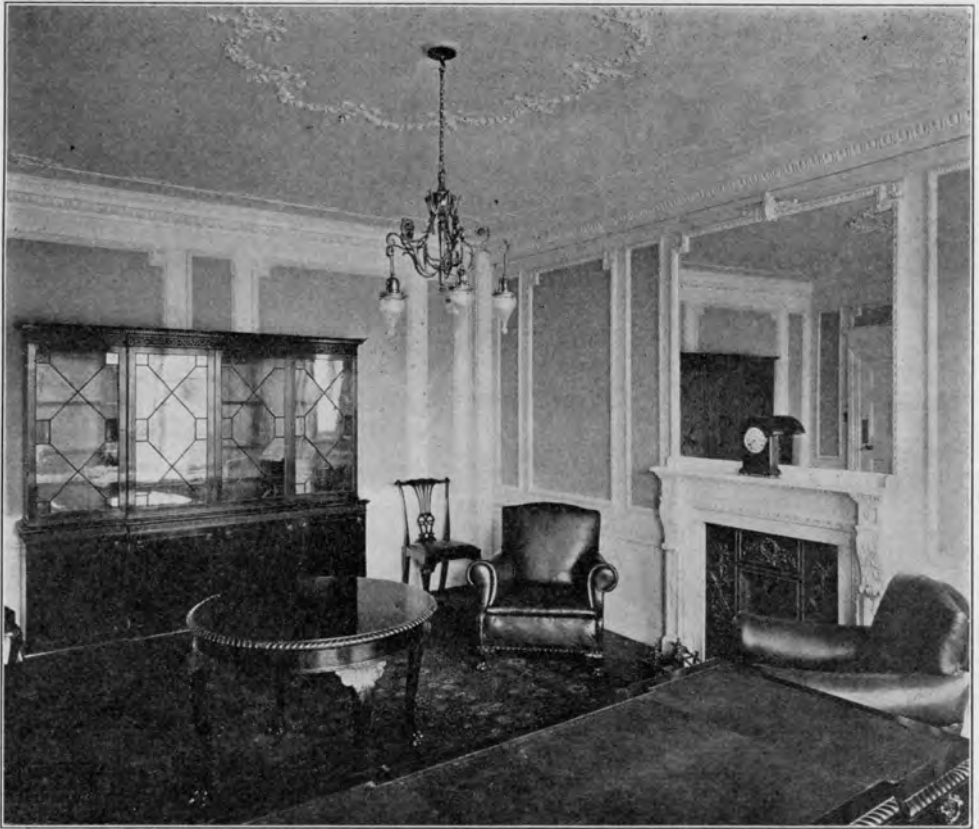
tem of telephones, and the other two being trunk lines, each having five extra points and fifty extensions, making a total of ten extra lines and one hundred extensions. Past the telephone exchange



Outside view of the building from the Strand.

pointments. The main elevator has a capacity of twelve passengers and an attendant. To the right of the waiting room is a telephone exchange containing three switchboards, one fitted with 100 lines for the inter-communication sys-

is another set of large doors, which communicate with the Aldwych side of the building. These doors are used by the staff. On the same floor is a large room, 60 feet by 40 feet, which is used by the Transfer Department. This room



Mr. Marconi's room.

is fitted with a Honduras mahogany counter, equipped with three solid bronze grilles, in which are received the share certificates, vouchers, etc. All the desks in this office were specially made and are 6 feet long. The office is decorated in white, with a fine balcony running all round it, on which are employed about twenty dictaphone typists. From this balcony an electric conveyance for carrying dictaphone records communicates with each floor in the building. The whole of the electric light fittings in this room are of solid bronze, penny metal. The staff employed in this room numbers about twenty, so that, compared with the floor space, it will be seen that each man is provided with ample space. The postal room is situated at the end of this floor, and opens on to the street through a set of doors at which the mails are delivered. This room is also used as the central ex-

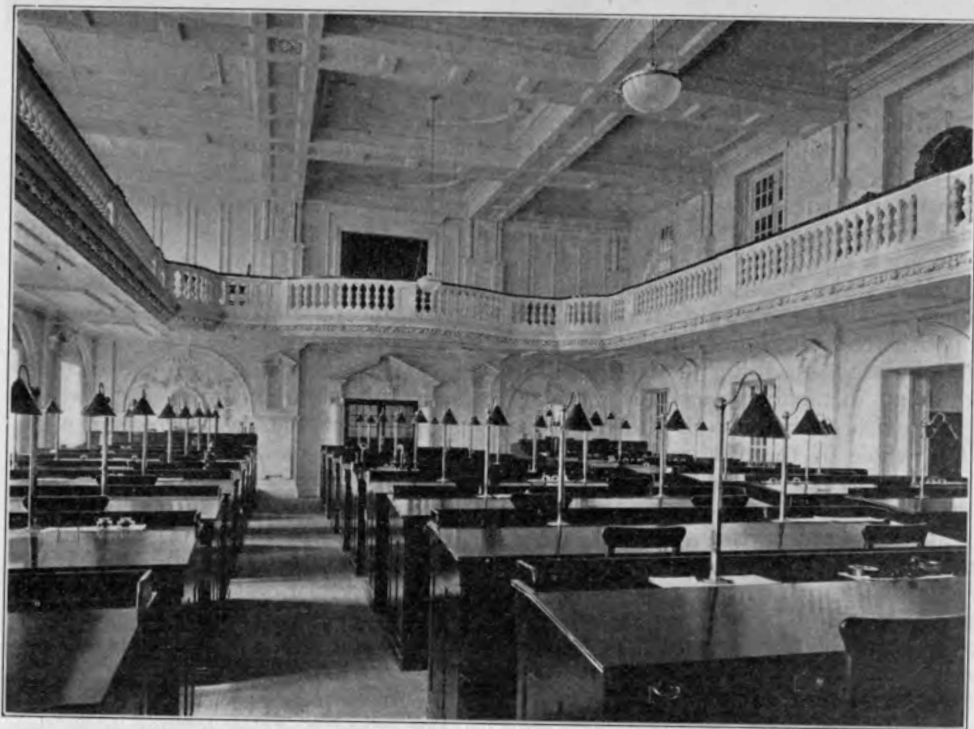
change for the pneumatic tube system installed throughout the offices. Another large room has been reserved on the Aldwych front for extension of the Traffic Department. A large elevator faces another entrance on the Aldwych side is used by members of the staff whose offices are on the Aldwych side of the building.

To the right of the main entrance off the Strand is the telegraph office, which is open night and day to receive marconigrams. This office is connected by means of a private wire to the Marconi station at Clifden, where Transatlantic business is dealt with. As a result of this private wire, the relaying of messages between London and Clifden is abolished, and marconigrams intended for all parts of the United States and Canada are now transmitted at a considerably increased speed.

The grand staircase leading from the



Public telegraph office with an entrance on the Strand.



Accountant's office, showing gallery used by draughtsmen.



The Board room.

waiting room to all floors is 10 feet wide, and inserted on each landing are some very fine stained glass windows. The motto under the window on the first landing is, "I'll put a girdle round about the earth in forty minutes."

On the first floor is a large room overlooking the Strand, which is used by the managing director. This room has been furnished and decorated in the Adam style, the whole of the electric light fittings and other metalwork being in solid bronze. The walls have been paneled with rich mouldings, the panels painted a pale sage green, and the mouldings colored a scrambled white. The fireplace has a marble hearth and surround, and the grate and cheeks are of polished steel with bronze enrichments. Adjoining this room is the manager's office, which has been decorated in similar style. The mantelpiece is in carved mahogany, and the grate and cheeks in polished steel and bronze. The room adjoining this is used by the private secretaries and their assistants. In

this room is also situated a pneumatic tube station. The large hall on this floor is used as another waiting room.

Another flight of stairs leads to the second floor. On the right are the rooms occupied by the secretary, the assistant secretary, and their typists, and the Board Room.

The latter has been tastefully and skilfully decorated and the electric light fittings here are also in solid bronze of a special design. To the left of the landing is the Accountant's Department, which is of similar dimensions to the Transfer Department—namely, 60 feet by 40 feet. A staircase leads to another balcony, which is used by draughtsmen. The ceiling is domed, and highly enriched with fine plaster work. Thirty-two new desks, each 10 feet long, have been provided, giving accommodation for sixty-four clerks. At the back of this office are the storerooms, lined with adjustable bookshelves, on which papers can be stored, and a large lift is installed, by means of which all books

are conveyed to the strong room. Divided from this room by means of Honduras mahogany screens are the offices of the accountant, the assitsant-accountant, the cashiers, and their typists.

On the third floor are the offices of the technical staff, consisting of the chief engineer, the assistant engineer, other engineers, and technical clerks. These rooms overlook the Strand, and are partitioned off by means of Honduras mahogany screens.

A very light room on the right-hand side of the large waiting room is used by the chief draughtsman and drawing-office staff.

On the fourth floor the offices facing the Strand are occupied by Mr. Marconi, Mr. Marconi's private secretary, and the Patent Department. The other rooms on this floor have been allotted to the Field Station Department, the English edition of THE MARCONIGRAPH,

the Publicity Department, and the Stationery Department, while the rooms overlooking the Aldwych side have been apportioned to first-class engineers, foreign agents, auditors, etc.

The fifth floor is occupied by the traffic manager and his staff. These offices lead up to the Ship Fitting Department, the chart room, operators' and inspectors' waiting rooms, etc.

A portion of the sixth floor has been reserved for the use of the housekeeper.

On the seventh floor there will be a large workshop and a room in which drawing-office tracings will be printed, also a dark room for photographic work, a drawing office, four large show rooms where working sets can be demonstrated, and all types of storage. An aerial system will eventually be placed on the roof for demonstration purposes. Other rooms on this floor have been equipped as a training school for operators.



A view of the transfer department.

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