



The TV aerial array

WE WITNESSED the making of history on Tuesday, 22 April, when a Marconi Image Orthicon camera, used by a B.B.C. Outside Broadcast Unit, televised for the first time a demonstration of a Marconi Instruments product. The instrument was the Moisture Meter TF 933A; the programme was "Spring at Holly Hill Farm"; and the place was Enfield.

Holly Hill Farm is a model of its kind and comprises some 350 acres, of which at present two hundred are devoted to arable farming, the remainder providing pasturage for a dairy herd. Mr. William Fountain, its progressive owner, also runs a busy riding stables.

Spring at Holly Hill Farm

The B.B.C. have visited the farm from time to time over the last three years, one of its advantages from their point of view being its close proximity to Alexandra Palace—about six miles as the crow flies—and its commanding position on a high ridge. Picture strength was excellent in this programme.

The programme included most of the activities that keep the farmer busy in the spring; rotivating, drilling, and rolling; hedge cutting; lambs; breaking in a pony; and *grass drying* . . . that is where M.I. came into the picture. It is important for the farmer that his grass feed should have just the right moisture content, so that it contains the optimum nutriment value. The Moisture Meter tells the farmer in a matter of seconds the moisture content of the grass. The length of time for which the grass dryer must be used may be accurately regulated and the best results achieved with the minimum consumption of fuel.

Grass drying is only one of many activities in which the farmer finds the M.I. Moisture Meter a reliable friend. Wheat, rye, and maize, oats and barley, agricultural seeds, indeed any hygroscopic materials give best results in certain limited range of moisture content. From sowing to reaping, and long after, the farmer can make good use of this versatile and portable instrument. And not only the farmer . . . there are thousands of uses for the TF 933A and hundreds of users in this country and abroad.

"Organised chaos" was the remark our cameraman made when he first sighted Holly Hill Farm. Rehearsals were in full progress for the evening broadcast; tractors roared up and down the narrow lanes; TV cameras were peeping over hedges, and cows were peeping over TV cameras; cars were arranged in serried ranks. How could order be brought out of such confusion?

However, the programme went off without a hitch and must have given millions of town dwellers an insight into modern farming. An excellent documentary, efficiently produced by Michael Henderson, with Barrie Edgar commenting and Alan Morris acting as stage manager. And a feather in the cap of the TF 933A whose versatility has to be seen to be believed.



David Merridale, M.I. Sales Department (left), makes an adjustment to the TF 933A at the rehearsal

The M.I. moisture meter TF 933A in the centre of the picture beside a Hammer Mill which cuts up the dried grass. Barrie Edgar, with microphone, and William Fountain stand with their backs to the grass drying plant

