

SEEING

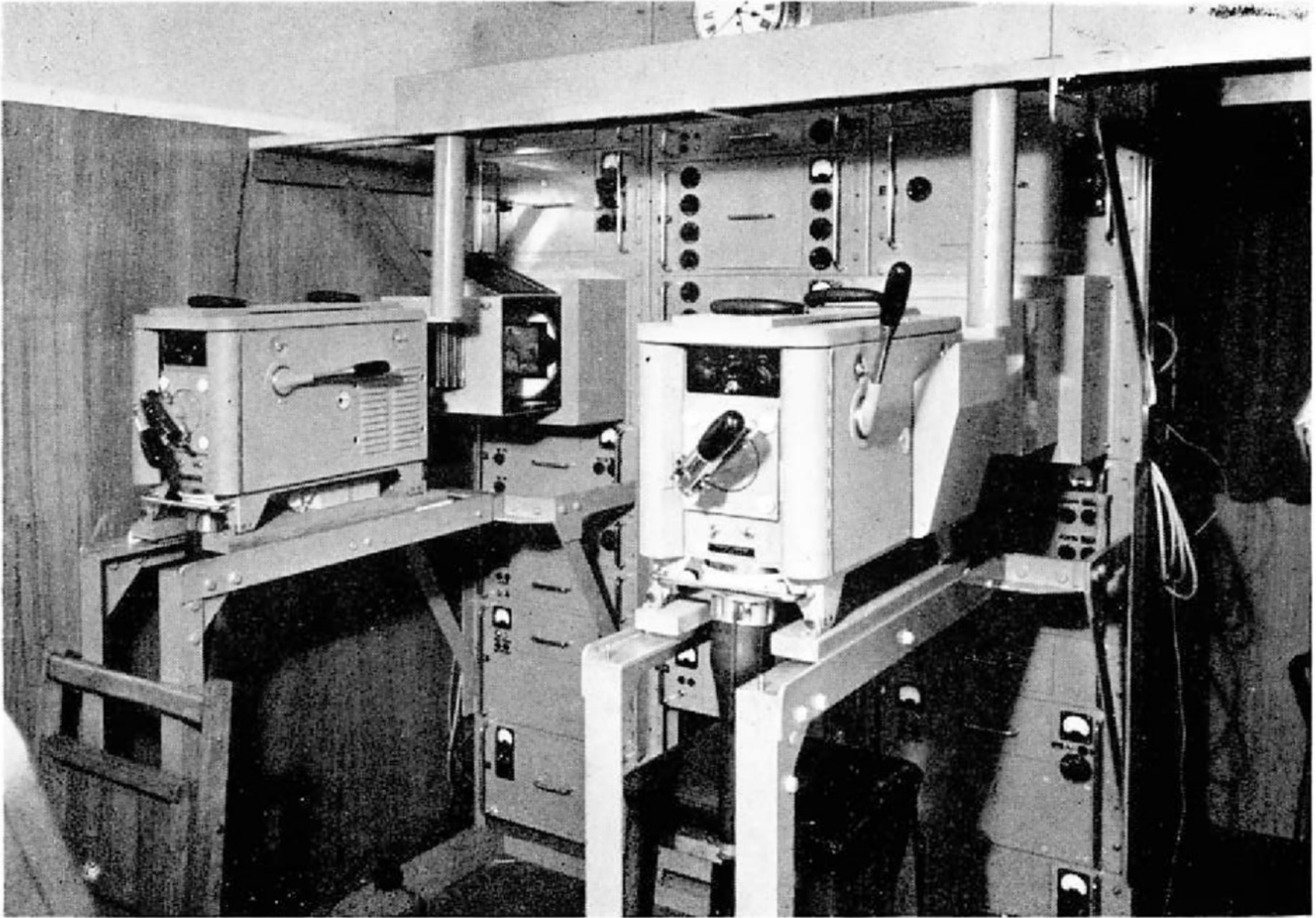
TELEVISION history was made by the first of the Eurovision telecasts on Sunday 6 June. It featured the celebrated Fete des Narcisses at Montreux, Switzerland, and a tour of the Vatican City. By these successful transmissions the horizon of television exchanges has now been widened to include the whole of Europe.

The Marconi television outside broadcast vehicle recently purchased by the Swiss P.T.T., fitted with twin sound channels as shown in our last month's issue, provided the initial step in the inaugural programme, televising the flower festival in the streets of Montreux with the Mark II Image Orthicon cameras, and feeding the signals to the transmitter at Zurich. From there it was sent by radio links to the European countries participating.

Marconi mobile cameras of the same type were used for the programme from Rome. The highlight of this programme was the appearance before the camera of His Holiness Pope Pius XII, who de-

The two Marconi Mark II cameras used by the B.B.C. at Swingate, near Dover, to convert the signals received from the Continent to the 405 line standards used in this country

Photos by courtesy of B.B.C.



EYE TO EYE ◀

livered a message to viewers in five languages.

Reception of both these transmissions was remarkably good, not only in this country, but also in the other countries taking part in Eurovision, from Italy to Denmark, and it is generally agreed that the success of this highly complicated enterprise reflects great credit on all engineers and programme staff concerned.

A great deal of Marconi equipment took part in the Eurovision scheme. In addition to the outside broadcast units already mentioned, Marconi sound and vision transmitters were in operation at Rome, where there are two Marconi-equipped television studios and a master control room. Pisa also uses Marconi sound and vision transmitters, and Milan, like Rome, has two Marconi-equipped studios and a master control room.

In addition to this, the B.B.C., of course, uses Marconi equipment extensively at its transmitting stations. On Saturday, 12 June, when Britain contributed to the International Television Exchange, Marconi cameras televised the Jubilee Review of the R.N.V.R. by Her Majesty the Queen, as well as part of the Richmond Royal Horse Show. And in the late evening the B.B.C.'s Television Roving Eye, which is equipped with a Marconi camera, took viewers on a tour of London.

Another very important item of equipment is the conversion unit installed by the B.B.C. near Dover, which was used to convert the European standards of transmission to the British. The cameras which formed part of this conversion unit are also of Marconi manufacture.



An aerial at Lille, part of the extremely intricate network which was Eurovision

Swingate received its signals from Cassel in northern France. Our readers may remember that this was the conversion point for the first Franco-British television programme relay nearly two years ago