

**Electric Transmission of Vision.** G. RIGNOUX. (*Comptes Rendus*, clix, 301.)—In the transmitting apparatus a number of selenium cells are employed—as many, in fact, as the number of points to be transmitted. The currents furnished by the selenium cells being too small to be used with an apparatus for the magnetic rotation of the plane of polarization of a beam of light, each selenium cell is connected to a relay. Similar terminals of these relays are connected to the sectors of a commutator, so that each is connected in turn through a battery to the coil of the polarization apparatus. Along the axis of the coil there is a tube of carbon tetrachloride, through which a beam of polarized light is sent. A nicol at the end of the tube transmits more or less light, according to the amount of rotation of the plane of polarization of the light in its passage through the tube. An arrangement of lenses and rotating mirrors serves to direct the emergent beam to a point on a screen corresponding to the particular selenium cell which is at any particular instant in use. Thus a series of points, corresponding in brightness or darkness to points on the object to be viewed at a distance, is obtained on the screen, and if these succeed one another with sufficient rapidity the persistence of vision allows the whole of the object to be seen at once. A rough apparatus on these lines has been made, and letters or other objects presented to the transmitter have been seen projected on the screen of the receiving apparatus. Various points in which the apparatus may be improved are noted. The disadvantage of the relays is that they will give no gradation; they either operate or do not operate. It is thought that by utilizing a small type of dynamo a continuous gradation of current may be obtained, corresponding to the luminous intensity received by each cell.

**New Method for Fumigating Imported Seed.**—A satisfactory method for destroying injurious insects in imported seed without affecting the value of the seed has been used by the United States Department of Agriculture, and is described in a new bulletin (No. 186), entitled “A Method of Fumigating Seed.”

In the new method the infested seed is placed in a chamber in which a partial vacuum has been created. The chamber is then filled with a very deadly gas—hydrocyanic acid—which penetrates more effectively into the seed because of the previously-created vacuum. It has been found that a considerably shorter exposure was necessary in using this method of fumigation than in the usual method. The bulletin describes the experiment completely, giving details and illustrations of the chamber used in the experiment.

Hydrocyanic acid is, of course, a most dangerous poison and should not be handled by any except those who are thoroughly familiar with it. Another gas—carbon bisulphide—is to be used by the department in a similar experiment, the results of which will be announced later.