

THE QUEEN DIALS EDINBURGH.

Bristol Central Exchange began a telephone revolution and had a royal visit on the same day. A red letter day indeed. The new system is called Subscriber Trunk Dialling. By way of contrast the Queen saw the old time phones, which you would call the operator, and also a picture of a typical exchange (Kilburn) of fifty years ago. Here, a Swedish instrument, among others of the pioneering age. One model, the carbon transmitter of Blake, 1879. A far cry from the latest model, soon available in seven different colours. Great Britain will eventually be linked by the dial we now use for local calls. The Postmaster General invited Her Majesty to make the first S.T.D. call - to Edinburgh, and telephone history was made:

"The Lord Provost of Edinburgh speaking".

(The Queen replies:)

"This is the Queen speaking from Bristol. Good afternoon Lord Provost".

(The Lord Provost replies:)

"Good afternoon Your Majesty. May I with humble duty offer you the loyal greetings of the citizens of Edinburgh".

(The Queen replies:)

"Thankyou, and would you Lord Provost, please convey my greetings to them" (She goes on:) "I'm always interested in any development that brings my people closer together. In a few moments Bristol subscribers will be able to make trunk calls by merely dialling the right number up to a distance of 300 miles. In time the whole of the United Kingdom will be able to enjoy the advantages of this new service which the Post Office has introduced".

(The Lord Provost replies:)

"May I express my gratitude to your Majesty for the honour which you have done to me and to Scotland in making the first call in this new service to me".

(The Queen replies:)

Add: Queen's phone message:-

"Thank you, Goodbye, Lord Provost".

(The Lord Provost replies:)

"Goodbye, Your Majesty"..