

TALKING BOOK,

Lord Fraser explained the operation of the tape recording magazine now being adopted by the library of the Royal National Institute for the Blind, of which Mr. Godfrey Robinson (left) is chairman. The all-enclosed cassette (used on the play-back equipment many blind persons have) makes up the world's best talking book machine.

Franklin Engelmann and others in radio and the theatre have their readings recorded for the blind. Pickwick Papers here.

The Talking Book Library, near Wembley, has more than 6,500 members. Most of them send their requests by post. Till recently the recordings have been on long-playing disc. Many were needed for a whole book; multi-track tape gets it all in a single cassette. With so many members the library despatch department is kept busy. In houses all over the country the arrival of the cassettes is, for many sightless persons, the high spot of the week. They quickly get the hang of operating the machine. Pickwick read aloud has given pleasure to millions for more than a century. Now readings from the whole field of literature are being brought to the blind.