

# BELL TELEPHONE QUARTERLY

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### The Place of the Bell Telephone Laboratories in the Bell System

IT is one of the functions of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company to work out for its Associated Companies engineering problems involving new developments. These problems as met by one company are, in large measure, common to all the companies, so that the solutions when once at hand are generally applicable and benefit all. The centralization of the study of such problems is almost imperative in order to unify the plant and the operating practices throughout the country, a prerequisite to the interconnection of subscribers on a nationwide basis.

Since the development problems encountered by the Associated Companies cover all branches of telephone engineering, there have arisen in the American Telephone and Telegraph Company or closely associated with it three organizational branches for participating in the solution of these problems, its Department of Operation and Engineering, its Department of Development and Research, and the Bell Telephone Laboratories.

The American Telephone and Telegraph Company undertakes, through constant association with the