

service was so roundly denounced. The defects are not due to the fact that too little money was spent in its installation. The estimate on which it was decided to construct the system called for an expenditure of, without contingencies, £16 14s. per subscriber's line. The 1904 accounts show the average cost per line to have been £30 15s., or over 80 per cent. in excess of the estimate.

And this is not all. The estimate called for all cables being laid in conduits whereas in the plant as constructed about one-third of the total length of cables is armored cable buried solidly in the ground, hundreds of pounds having thus been saved at the cost of efficiency. This is in itself a serious matter but it pales into insignificance in comparison with another grave defect. The original installation was on the call-wire system, a method out of date at the time in all first class plants. Glasgow discovered this after the money had been spent and an extension being necessary another system was adopted and then another, and so on, until today there are in the various exchanges no less than five different systems employed. Naturally the effect has been complications and a bad service, so bad, in fact, that the necessity of uniformity has become so apparent that it can no longer be ignored. In the last official report the Telephone committee reported that they had under consideration a change in the method of operation, and quite recently manufacturers have been invited to submit estimates on the cost of changing all the central office equipment and subscriber's instruments to give automatic calling and clearing. The approximate cost of this change is estimated at £35,000. But at the best this would only mean a patch-work job. To completely reorganize the plant and bring it up to