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The maintenance and working of all the apparatus in use in the stations and offices, is within the attributes of the assistant-superintendent's department.

It is the duty of the train-despatcher, who is also the superintendent of the telegraph, subject to the orders of the assistant-superintendent, to superintend the telegraph branch, to see to the maintenance of the apparatus and the technical instructions to be given to the telegraph operators; he has authority over the latter in everything relating to his branch.

The keeping in order, cleaning and preservation of the apparatus are entrusted to the operators who are responsible therefor.

The keeping in order consists in daily testing the various parts of which the batteries are made up; in replacing those which are unserviceable; in taking care of the elements required for supplying electricity and replacing those which are no longer of use.

Every morning, on coming on duty, the operators must examine the battery and see that there is no break in the connection between the zinc plates and their joints or between the sheets of copper which are bathed in the solution. They must re-arrange or change the elements which are not properly placed and regulate in the jars the level of the liquid required to feed the battery.

The exterior of the large glass jars, as well as the bottom of the box must always be kept perfectly clean and dry.

When a battery is considered to be unserviceable, owing to the entire saturation of the jars and the oxidation of the zinc plates, the superintendent will cause the battery to be taken to pieces by the operators themselves. The jars and the bottom of the box will be carefully cleaned by them and the unserviceable zinc plates be replaced, as ordered by the superintendent.