

The New Standard Terminal Strip.

THE addition of still another item to the list of synthetic resin products employed in the telephone industry is announced in the acceptance by the British Post Office of a new standard terminal strip for subscribers' instruments. In this case Bakelite replaces wood, teak having been the earlier standard. From a consideration of the hygroscopic nature of wood it will be obvious that the use of Bakelite represents a definite step forward and is undoubtedly to be preferred in humid situations.

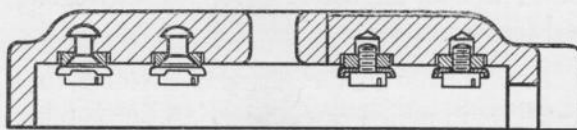


Terminal strip in black Bakelite.

Designed originally for use with the standard **GEOPHONE** Set the strip consists of a single moulding having one fixing hole at each end prepared for standard round head wood screws. In shape and design it is generally similar to the type which it replaces, and employs the same terminal plates and screws. The method of securing the terminals is, however, different. For each plate a metal pin is moulded in the body of the strip and a shallow rectangular recess provided. In the final operation a terminal plate is placed into each recess so that the securing pin projects through the central fixing hole. The head of the pin is then spun over to lock the plate in position, the recess being an added safeguard against displacement of the

terminal when wires are being connected. As will be seen from the diagram the step formed by the recess also increases the surface distance and leakage path between adjacent terminals. Although a variety of colours and mottled finishes can be supplied, black has been selected by the British Post Office.

As an insulator Bakelite already holds a position of importance in the electrical world, and the increase during recent years in the extent of its use in the manufacture of telephone apparatus is of particular interest, being indicative of its superiority over other insulating materials for certain classes of work. In the construction of numerous components, it has superseded a variety of fibrous materials, and has in some instances been employed in place of ebonite. Its most prominent appearance, however, has been in moulded form, and the new terminal strip is a typical example of the very high standard



Sectional views showing method of securing terminal plates.

which has now been reached in the production of Bakelite mouldings on a large scale. Following its adoption by the British Post Office an initial order for 75,000 has been placed with The General Electric Company who manufacture the complete article at their Moulded Insulation Works, Witton.