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**QST Issue:** Mar 1920  
**Title:** Oscillating crystal  
**Author:** G.W. Pickard

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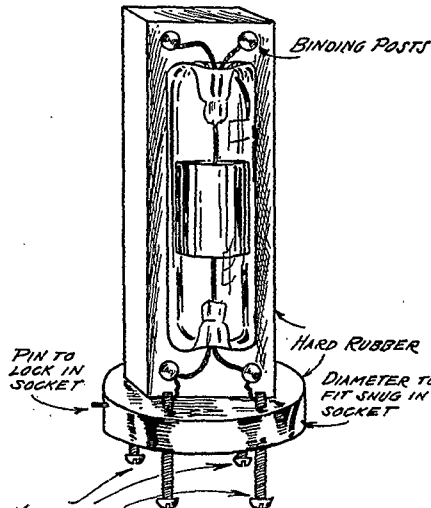
The standard A.R.R.L. letter-head will be placed on sale soon, at a price everyone can afford. Patience until then, you chaps—our printer's first duty is to get out QST. We hope to announce it next month.

Heard KO? KO is an ex-amateur, now a ship operator, and his identity must remain unknown. He's had a lot of fun hamming up and down the coast, and some remarkable distances have been covered with various inland amateur stations. While 50 miles off the south-east end of Cuba, communication was had over the following distances:

3BZ .....	1275 miles
2IR .....	1550 "
8ER, 9EG, 1AW .....	1600 "
9ZN .....	1775 "

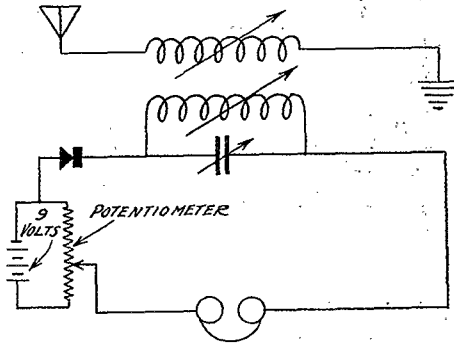
The stations covering these distances can well be proud of their work. The remarkable part is that KO says his input during this work was but 200 watts.

Here's an idea for a home-made adapter for the tubular bulbs, contributed by Mr.



L. A. Walker, of St. Joseph Mo. The drawing is self-explanatory.

Did you ever hear of an oscillating crystal? Mr. G. W. Pickard, of the Wireless Specialty Apparatus Co., has done it, and here's the hook-up. The secret is the



nine volts at the potentiometer. CW is received by heterodyne beats in the usual manner. The Editor would like to know what results are had with this hookup.

Some operators have the bad habit of "coming back" at a station calling them and shooting a message without finding out whether their own signals are loud enough to copy. This makes untold confusion. Messages should not be transmitted without a GA from the listening station, and it would be well to inquire first QRK?

Repeating words when the other fellow tells you your signals swing is worse than useless. If he says you are too fast, slow down; if he says QRM, QTA for him; if he says QRN, then to QSZ is very desirable; but if the trouble is fading and nothing more, try it again the same as the first transmission. Nothing is so exasperating as to tell a fader to QTA and have him consume priceless time while his sigs are "in" in calling and repeating each word, only to fade out again when he did before, when if only he'd gone ahead in proper style you'd have had it.

It's no crime to ask for QRS. If a man comes at you too fast, tell him that rather than trying to guess at the message. We have some "Lake Erie swings" in our midst, too, who can't be read until they drop