

VNN 2762

NEW SCOTLAND YARD INFORMATION ROOM.

1/1/57.

In 1937, the emergency system of dialling 999 was introduced at Scotland Yard. ^{2. reports} Now a new information room designed to give ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ ^{still} still more streamlining has been opened by the Police Commissioner, Sir John Nott-Bower. ¹³

And this is what will happen from now on. A caller has spotted housebreakers at work and dialled the emergency number, 999. ⁷ ~~7~~

In cases of this sort, a second saved may make all the difference. ⁴ A conveyor-belt for passing the message forward saves the time of walking around to deliver it ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ to the man whose job it is to alert the patrol cars. ¹¹ An electrically-controlled panel beside the telephonist tells him at a glance which cars are available for the job. ¹⁶ ~~13~~

In a few more seconds, the patrol car is on its way. In this case, it has to go to the house of the caller for further information --- and she says, they went that way. Crews of radio-equipped vehicles have made over a hundred and twenty-five thousand arrests; in a few minutes, it'll be one more. ¹⁵ ~~6~~

Not all messages are concerned with crime; but the need for speed is obvious when you learn that the Information room deals with nearly a million calls a year. ⁸ ~~5~~

