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Bilingual Machine Electronic device will translate foreign-language data.

Dr. Harry Huskey, Victor Oswald and William Bull of the University of California at Los Angeles have come forth with a machine that will translate. Ever since Dr. Norbert Wiener of Massachusetts Institute of Technology published a book on "Cybernetics" (his word) the designers of electronic machines that will solve in minutes problems in higher mathematics that would normally engage an expert for weeks have been talking of artificial "brains" that will locate books in a library in a certain subject, play chess and do factory work. Translating was one of the tasks that electronic machines were to perform.

Don't expect a literary production from the translating machine, however. The California professors have in mind no more than a rapid exchange of information between scientists of different nationalities. Facts, not style, are the main consideration.

In any cybernetic machine the problem must be stated on perforated tape by some competent person. This done, the machine goes to work. In the case of the translating machine the problem can be stated only if there is a sound linguistic theory. Dr. Oswald says the linguistic theory is ready, and Dr. Huskey adds, that the Institute of Numerical Analysis, of which he is the head, can set up any electronic apparatus to meet linguistic requirements.

An actual demonstration can be made when special scientific glossaries have been prepared and the problems of making them mechanically accessible has been solved.