Obituary

Robert E. Shelby, a Fellow of the Society and Vice-President and Chief Engineer of the National Broadcasting Company, died unexpectedly in Teaneck, N.J., on December 6, at the age of 49.

A pioneer in the development of black-and-white and color television, Mr. Shelby had been associated with NBC since 1929. When the company first established its television development laboratory in the Empire State Building in New York in 1931, he was put in charge of the project, supervising the earliest experimental work in TV operation techniques.

From 1935 to 1937, he assisted in the organization of RCA-NBC field tests of all-electronic television and in the design of equipment and facilities for those tests. During World War II, Mr. Shelby directed NBC's wartime research and development activities, including the development of an airborne television reconnaissance system for the U.S. Navy. He also served during this time as technical consultant to the National Defense Research Committee.

Mr. Shelby participated actively for a number of years in the television standardization work of various industry committees. Before his promotion to Vice-President and Chief Engineer, he was director of Color Television Systems Development for NBC and in this post played an important role in the introduction of RCA-pioneered compatible color television.

He was elevated to the grade of Fellow in the Society on October 4, 1955, at the 78th Convention, Lake Placid, N.Y.

Education, Industry News

SMPTE to Compile Courses of Instruction Report

Formal steps have been taken by the Society to compile a report on motion-picture and television instruction in colleges and universities in the United States. Dr. John G. Frayne, SMPTE President, has appointed a Committee on College Motion-Picture and Television Curricula.

In 1946 Dr. Frayne compiled a report on motion-picture instruction in colleges and universities and in September 1950 this report was revised by Jack Morrison

of the University of California at Los Angeles. In addition to bringing those earlier reports up to date, the committee hopes to expand them to include related courses in television instruction.

The committee, which is under the chairmanship of Desmond P. Wedberg, Editor of *Film and A-V World*, is a subcommittee of the Society's Committee on Education. The parent group was organized early in 1955 to meet the growing need for trained technical people in the motion-picture industry. Through its subcommittee on Training of Film Laboratory Technicians the group has already established three seminars at the Engineering Extension Division of the University of California at Los Angeles.

Other members of the new committee are Dr. Herbert A. Berry, Gordon-Berry Scripts, La Mirada, Calif.; Herbert E. Farmer, University of Southern California, Los Angeles; Dr Charles Fermaglich, Empire Studios, Houston, Texas; G. B. Grossman, Hughes Aircraft, Culver City, Calif.; Haig P. Manoogian, New York University; Thomas W. McMaster, Edward Bok Vocational School, Drexel Hill, Pa.; Joan Reynertson, Alturas Films, Santa Barbara, Calif.; Emmett R. Salzberg, Circle Film Laboratories, New York City; Edgar A. Schuller, De Luxe Laboratories, Astoria, N.Y.; and George N. Woodruff, Chicago Midway Laboratories.—*S.G.*

Sound Course

A course in the "Elements of Sound Recording for Motion Pictures," which will begin February 9 at the University of Southern California, has been sponsored by the Society through the Education Committee's Subcommittee on Sound Recording. Designed specifically for operating personnel in the Sound Departments of Hollywood film studios, this course was organized and developed by the Society, the engineers in the industry and the I.A.T.S.E. Sound Technicians, Local 695, to give the newer men in the field a background in the principles of sound and the procedures in its recording.

The course will cover present-day recording methods, materials, equipment and personnel; physical elements of sound and acoustics; production techniques; microphones, mixers, recording equipment and factors governing sound quality. It will be taught by Mr. Wiegand of the Department of Cinema faculty and by guest lecturers from the industry who are specialists in the various problems.

The class will meet Thursday evenings, Feb. 9 through June 7 at the Cinema Building, 659 W. 35 St., Los Angeles, from 7:30 to 10:10 P.M. The registration fee is $60.

The Subcommittee on Sound Recording is under the chairmanship of Lorin D. Grignon of Twentieth Century-Fox, and is comprised of representatives of the studios, USC and the union, including Lloyd T. Goldsmith of Warner Brothers, Fred R. Wilson of Samuel Goldwyn Studio, William Stafford of MGM, Herbert Farmer of USC, Tom Carman, business agent of Local 695, and Barney Freericks, Twentieth Century-Fox.—*S.G.*

books reviewed

Research Films in Biology, Anthropology, Psychology and Medicine

By Anthony R. Michaelis. Published (1955) by Academic Press Inc., 125 E. 23 St., New York 10. 490 pp. 87 illus. 5¾ × 9 in. Price $10.00.

Dr. Michaelis has produced a small encyclopaedia by strictly limiting it to research motion pictures in biology, medicine and the social sciences; excluding film strips, teaching films, etc. A second volume may be published on physical science, geography and engineering, and astronomy if there is sufficient interest. Workers in these fields should demand this aid.

"A research film results from the application of cinematography to the systematic search for new knowledge in the sciences." Some of us prefer to think of *science* as a unity with different approaches or branches rather than the categories of this book; some of which are rather small to be called sciences.

The first 32 pages are devoted to definitions, boundaries, history, literature, advantages and limitations, research films, cameras, chronometers, planning, analysis, use, preservation and storage of research films and stereoscopic photography in research. This compact treatment, as well as the rest of the book, reads well, First principles are stressed, little is missed, even a touch of calculus is shown to be useful in frame analysis. Historical treatment includes brief mention of Marey's work and specific references to other books and sources. While definitely a British book, the author has not restricted the content to works in one language. Camera needs are stated and referenced, but it is noted that none have been manufactured specifically for scientific use.

The rest of the book covers the Biological Sciences, with chapters on cinematography, biology and animal behavior; the Human Sciences which he treats with chapters on human record films, anthropology, and psychology and psychiatry; and the Medical Sciences with chapters on techniques of medical cinematography, techniques of X-ray cinematography and medicine. Each chapter starts with an argument and most chapters include theoretical and practical considerations, techniques, reviews and sources. The classifications and subdivisions will amaze many readers, e.g., muscular action receives equal billing with locomotion, botany, reproduction, cytology and embryology; X-ray cinematography is found under biology (circulation and heart) 3+ pp., as a chapter of 26 pp., and under medicine (heart) 3+ pp. Fortunately a