Biographical Note

George Lisle Beers, Technical Advisor, RCA Patent Operations, retired June 1 after 43 years with RCA and one of its predecessor companies. Dr. Beers is a recognized authority on receiver development and all phases of television. He has been particularly interested in color television and participated in the work of the National Television System Committee in its endeavor to determine color television standards and, on several occasions, he testified before the FCC on theater television, uhf, and color television.

He was born in Indiana, Pa., and was graduated from Indiana State Teachers College in 1917. In 1921 he received a B.S. degree in Electrical Engineering from Gettysburg College. In 1947 the college awarded him the honorary degree of Doctor of Science, and some time later the Gettysburg Alumni Association presented him with a Distinguished Service Certificate. This award honors Gettysburg alumni who "have done outstanding work for humanity or who have distinguished themselves professionally."

Dr. Beers' career in electronics began in 1921 when he joined the staff of Westinghouse Electric Co. as a design engineer. In 1930 he transferred to the research department of the Radio Corp. in America in Camden, N.J., where he became a section engineer in charge of superheterdyne receiver circuit design and development. From 1935 to 1940 he was in charge of the design and development of television studio equipment, including that used by NBC at the 1939 World's Fair. In 1940 he was placed in charge of the Advanced Development Department. Subsequently he held a series of administrative positions of increasing responsibility. In 1942 he was named Manager of the Engineering and Manufacturing Service Department. The following year he became Staff Assistant to the Chief Engineer of the RCA Victor Division, and in 1945 he was named Assistant Director of Engineering for the division. In 1954 he was appointed Administrative Engineer for the Product Engineering activity in Camden, a position he held until transferring to Princeton in 1959 to become Technical Advisor of the (then) RCA Commercial Department.

Dr. Beers is a Fellow of the Society and is also a Fellow of the IEEE. He is a past recipient of the Modern Pioneers Award from the National Association of Manufacturers. More than 70 U.S. and foreign patents have been issued in his name.

He has published widely, and a number of his papers have been presented at Conferences of the Society and published in the *Journal*. His most recent Journal paper is "Minimizing the Effects of Ambient Light on Image Reproduction" (pp. 347–354, June 1957). He is author of "Focusing View-Finder in Television Camera" (pp. 181–196, Mar. 1943) and is co-author of five other papers on television which appeared in the SMPE *Journal* during the years from 1939 to 1943.

books reviewed

Color Television Fundamentals

By Milton S. Kiver. Published (1964) by McGraw-Hill Book Co., 330 West 42 St., New York, N.Y. 10036. 335 pp., 208 illus. (4 pages in full color). 6 × 9 in. Price $10.95.

There have been enough developments since 1955 in the production and design of color television equipment to warrant a second edition of this work. It is aimed principally at "those who will work with color television receivers in production, installation, or repair," i.e., those who will have to make such things function.

With these readers in mind the language has been kept very simple and all explanations aimed at showing as directly as possible how a result is achieved — with just enough background to indicate why that result is desired, and to suggest why some other procedures might not be as good.

The capsule treatment of colorimetry, including a statement on the limited visual perception of color in intermediate and fine detail, is a tall order. Nevertheless the author acquits himself remarkably well, and gives a very readable and useful summary. This holds also for other fields which he needs to treat in severely condensed fashion, as various portions of electric circuit design, color picture tube functioning, and even comparisons of alternative system designs. A comment one could make is that except in the case of the color picture tubes he does not give references to which his more ambitious readers could turn for fuller descriptions of the background material. As one example, some of them might like to find out something of the experimental effort

that was behind the choice of direction of the two-color discrimination for intermediate detail, in the NTSC color signal. All in all, the book will be found useful, and refreshing to read, by many engineers who may have more preparation than the author assumes.

Each chapter closes with a list of questions to serve as exercise for checking the reader on his comprehension of the preceding text. An appendix gives the current Federal Communications Commission approved technical specifications of the NTSC color television signal, and another appendix gives a brief glossary of the more important technical terms used.—*Pierre Mertz*, Consultant, 66 Leamington St., Lido Beach, L.I., N.Y. 11561.

Modern Dictionary of Electronics, 2nd Ed.

By Rudolf F. Graf. Published (1963) by Howard W. Sams & Co., Indianapolis 6, Ind. 436 pp. + 12 pp. for memoranda. Illus., Diagrams, Index. Price $6.95.

This second edition of the dictionary has been expanded to include more than 2,000 additional definitions, making it one of the most complete in its field. The additional terms encompass the newest areas of electronics, including cryogenics and microelectronics, as well as computer languages and programing. As in the previous edition, the definitions are generally couched in easily understandable terms, and care has been given to the choice of format and type faces.

The pronunciation guide at the end of the book is new with this edition. It gives the pronunciation and syllabic division of more than a thousand of the defined words, and thus is a useful reference for secretaries as well as engineers. Some users will undoubtedly find fault with the pronunciation listed for some words, such as "ampere"; however, such minor complaints do not impair the dictionary's utility.

Most working electronics engineers will find the majority of definitions quite familiar; however, in these days of specialization, even the average engineer often needs a reference for terms outside his immediate sphere of interest. For those engineers in related fields, the dictionary would be a most useful reference. In brief, this new and improved edition of an already good dictionary would be a good addition to a library of reference books.—*H. W. Mertz*, Cherry Hill N.J.

Dictionary of Modern Acronyms and Abbreviations

By Milton Goldstein. Published (1963) by Howard W. Sams & Co., Indianapolis 6, Ind. 158 pp. 8½ × 5½ in. Price $4.95.

As stated in the foreword to this dictionary, acronyms and abbreviations have indeed become a common part of everyday life. Almost everyone has heard and seen the words "radar," "sonar," and NASA. Such acronyms and abbreviations are even more common in the world of the engineer working on programs sponsored by or connected with the government. Many of these terms are familiar to most engineers, but new ones are constantly cropping up. Moreover, many engineers are unfamiliar with terms outside their own domain.

This dictionary represents an heroic effort to compile, in one document, those acronyms and abbreviations in common use. The effort has succeeded to a large degree, but the book suffers from one drawback — incompleteness. There are a great many acronyms and abbreviations not included. Indeed, the first attempt to look up an abbreviation, NECMD (standing for North-Eastern Contract Management Division), resulted in failure. Such a failure is always probable; it is entirely probable that the book was incomplete and, to some extent, outdated before the ink was dry.

The two blank pages at the end of the book can serve for writing in new entries; however, inclusion of blank space (or pages) at the end of each letter group would have been preferable.

In defense of the author, one must realize that any such attempt as this must of necessity be incomplete in our present fast-moving era, when new branches of science are born seemingly overnight. The dictionary is an extremely useful reference, particularly if the user deals with government agencies, if its limitations are realized and accepted.—*H. W. Mertz*, Cherry Hill, N.J.