

OPEN FORUM

At a meeting of the Board of Governors at New York City on December 19th, it was resolved: "That an open forum be established as a new department of the JOURNAL, in which might be published letters and communications from members relating to material in the JOURNAL or to other matters appertaining to the welfare of the Society, subject to the discretion of the Editor and Board of Editors."

Correspondence on the following subjects is invited:

- (a) Better ways of conducting the conventions.*
- (b) Problems for research.*
- (c) Problems for investigation by the various committees.*
- (d) Discussion of technical papers appearing in the JOURNAL, with comments on the success or failure of their application.*
- (e) Description of interesting or new developments which have come to your attention during your travels, thereby giving all the members the benefit of this knowledge.*
- (f) Preliminary announcements of investigations and discoveries which are to be more fully reported at a later date in formal papers.*

15 So. Oraton Parkway
East Orange, N. J.
March 14, 1931

MR. J. I. CRABTREE, *President*,
SOCIETY OF MOTION PICTURE ENGINEERS

DEAR MR. CRABTREE:

Your article on the "Open Forum" appearing in the March, 1931, issue of the S. M. P. E. JOURNAL, is extremely interesting and, to my mind, of vital importance to our Society and to the motion picture industry. Your suggestion, inviting correspondence and discussion on the subject of "Problems for Research," prompts me to present for your consideration, and for open discussion in the Forum, the peculiar need of the motion picture industry for what might be termed a clearing house to investigate and pass on the merits of inventions pertaining directly to the industry but which are created outside the pale of organizations directly engaged in regular motion picture work. It may very well be that many useful and often original ideas, developed by free-lance investigators or others not directly employed

in the motion picture industry, are lost to the industry because no channel exists through which the ideas can be transmitted to those in position to practically apply them.

Members of our Society, who attended the Spring Convention in Washington last year, had the opportunity to witness demonstrations of a projector which functions without intermittent movement of the film and produces screen images which are presented through the medium of continuous, uniform, non-periodic illumination. This projector, designed in 1925 and built in 1926, has been matched, in direct side-by-side comparison tests, against intermittent projectors of the latest design, which were tuned to the best possible performance. Authorities thoroughly acquainted with the normal performance of intermittent projectors, on witnessing such tests, have time and again stated that the continuous image is every bit the equal of the intermittent image as regards the cardinal features of steadiness, definition, and illumination but there are other advantages resulting from a blending of the successively projected images such as diminution of graininess, diminished eye-strain, and lack of color-flicker in two- and three-color additive projection.

Under the circumstances, it is difficult to conceive of any way in which the Society of Motion Picture Engineers can be more helpful to the industry it serves than it can be, at the present time, in sponsoring and conducting some scientific studies of the properties and characteristics of continuous non-intermittent motion picture screen images. The projector demonstrated last spring before the Society is available for these tests and the Society has many scientists within its membership who are fully capable of conducting the studies and analyzing their findings. I believe this matter is of such vital importance to the industry as to warrant the appointment, at an early date, of a special committee to investigate, not the possibilities, but the actual accomplishments of continuous non-intermittent projection.

I shall be pleased to hear from you and others regarding the "Problem for Research" which I have herein proposed. Trusting that you and the Board of Governors may consider continuous non-intermittent projection a fit subject for discussion in the Open Forum and for study by a committee of scientists, I remain

Yours very truly,

ARTHUR J. HOLMAN

The suggestion of Mr. Holman has been referred to the chairman of the Projection Theory Committee.

From other sources the suggestion has been made that our Society undertake to encourage educational institutions to establish fellowships for research work on scientific problems cognate to the motion picture industry and this is under consideration by the Board of Governors.

J. I. CRABTREE, *President*