

BOOK REVIEWS

Recording Sound for Motion Pictures. *Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.*—*McGraw-Hill Book Co.*, New York, N. Y., 1931, 404 pp. Price \$5.00.

A symposium of articles by leading authorities in the various phases of the art of recording and reproducing sound motion pictures. This book brings together under one cover for the first time a complete picture of the sound motion picture field, interesting not only to the sound engineer, but to the whole motion picture organization.

Arranged under five general heads, practically every phase of the art of sound recording is covered, from the source of the sound motion picture of today to the organization of the personnel of a sound recording organization.

Sound recording on disk and film, both the variable area and the variable density methods, is covered by articles explaining the theory and operation of individual designs. Circuits, amplifiers, and associated equipment and methods are illustrated and described.

Four interesting articles present a lucid picture of what goes on behind the scenes in the film processing laboratories and in the editing and assembly rooms.

Articles on acoustics give an idea of the problems encountered by acoustical engineers in the building of studios and theaters. Little is known regarding this phase of the art by the average person, and these articles give some very interesting information.

The projecting and reproducing of sound motion pictures is explained in articles on both the Western Electric and the RCA Photophone systems.

The book is well ended by a glossary of motion picture terms used in the laboratories, the studios, and the theaters.

A. H. HAAK

Patent Law. FRED H. RHODES. *McGraw-Hill Book Co.*, New York, N. Y., 1931, 207 pages.

This book is highly recommended to everyone coming even remotely in contact with patents and inventions. The work is easily read, but is surprisingly comprehensive. Most of the points with which the layman, and especially the inventor, should be familiar, are covered.

There is a brief résumé of the development of patent law. Other chapters cover in a concise and clear manner what persons are entitled to a patent, the differences between invention and discovery, and what constitutes novelty and patentability. Several sections deal with the application and the obtaining of the patent itself. The principal points covered here are the date of invention, abandonment, the form of the application, and the prosecution and amendment of the application. Other chapters deal with the legal aspects of a patent after it has been granted. These include a chapter on the rights conferred by a patent, a chapter on infringement, and another on testing the validity of a patent. A closing section deals with the rights of employers and employees, and the policy

in respect to patents generally. An index of citations is included and a subject index.

The language is non-technical and the style direct and clear. As indicated at the beginning of the book, it is written especially for chemists, inventors, and executives. It is one of the best of such works.

A. H. NIETZ