

OPEN FORUM

At a meeting of the Board of Governors at New York City on December 19, 1930, 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.*

721 Ashbury Street,
San Francisco, Calif.

July 21, 1931

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

DEAR MR. CRABTREE:

In the May number of the JOURNAL, a copy of which has reached me through the courtesy of your Editor, I am pleased to see a paper on non-intermittent projectors by Mr. Arthur Holman. His letter in the "Open Forum" of the May issue was of particular interest to me in that it states just what I should like to have your Society undertake in the interest of continuous projection.

It is, indeed, "difficult to conceive of any way in which the Society of Motion Picture Engineers can be more helpful to the industry it serves" than in conducting a thorough and scientific investigation of motion picture projection. If there are better methods for projecting motion pictures than those in common use, they should be made known to the industry. As it is practiced today, motion picture projection has many defects; and these defects should all be

pointed out and analyzed. Certainly no progress can possibly be made by totally ignoring the subject of the injurious nature of present-day projection.

The "belladonna effect," and the nerve and retinal fatigue, induced by the photoelectric properties of the retina, are examples of injurious defects that seriously challenge the attention of the motion picture industry. There is no longer any excuse for them. The art of projection has now reached its majority and there is no longer any need for the public to put up with the crudities and imperfections of its childhood.

The absolute subjection of the important matter of registration to the perforations, is another crudity that the technician would like to see outgrown. In recording and reproducing sound he has become very familiar with the advantages of a uniform motion of the film, and has learned how to obtain it quite independently of the perforations. He then very naturally longs for the time when the registration of the successive images on the screen will likewise be made to depend upon this much more accurate and scientific principle, for he instinctively knows that it will introduce a new era in the history of cinematography.

The Society of Motion Picture Engineers can perform no greater service for the industry and for the public than by actively coöperating with those who vainly have been struggling to bring on this period of growth and progress in the art. I do not know how long others have been in the struggle, but I can assure you that for ten years I have consistently endeavored to interest the motion picture industry in the many and important advantages of continuous projection, and consider it a hopeless task without the coöperation of the Society of Motion Picture Engineers or the industry.

Sincerely yours,
WM. C. PLANK