

SOCIETY ANNOUNCEMENTS

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

At a meeting held on July 7, 1932, at the Hotel Pennsylvania, New York, N. Y., the nominations of officers for the year 1933 were completed; upon receiving the formal acceptance from the nominees of their nominations, voting ballots will be mailed to the Active membership.

Considerable time was spent in revising the operating budget of the Society in order to make it conform to changing conditions, and various economies in the administrative procedure were instituted. In addition, it was deemed advisable not to hold a Fall Convention in the usual manner, but that, instead, a business meeting of the Society should be held, as the Fall Convention, in New York on October 5 under the auspices of the local New York Section, at which meeting several papers would be presented, the voting ballots would be counted, and the new officers for the year 1933 would be installed. It is probable that arrangements will be made to hold an informal dinner preceding the meeting in the evening. Further particulars concerning the meeting will be announced to the membership later.

As regards the advertising policy to be pursued in connection with sustaining memberships, the Board of Governors decided that various combinations will be acceptable: *viz.*, that any company may become a sustaining member of the Society by contributing \$100.00 or more annually; that any advertiser may become a sustaining member by contributing at least \$100.00 more than the cost of the advertisements; or that any company may simply buy space without becoming a sustaining member.

The Membership Committee is conducting a campaign for new members and it is hoped that the recent reduction of admission fees will assist materially in this work.

A revised method of validating and approving standards was adopted by the Board, and is as follows: that the Board will consider proposals for standardization supported by the recorded affirmative votes of three-fourths of the members of the Standards Committee, received within thirty days from the date on which the proposals to be voted upon were mailed to the members of the Committee; the Board of Governors will then either accept or reject the report of the Committee containing the proposals; if accepted, the report will be published in the next succeeding issue of the JOURNAL accompanied by an invitation to all members to submit their comments in writing to the Editor-Manager. At the next meeting of the Board of Governors, not sooner than thirty days after the publication of the report in the JOURNAL, the Board may consider the comments and take final action toward approving the proposals for publication as recognized standards of the Society, or may reject them.

The Standards Committee is at the present time communicating with the standardization bodies of societies in foreign countries for the purpose of co-operating with them in establishing international motion picture standards.

EMPLOYMENT ADVERTISEMENTS

In order to assist members of the Society who are desirous of obtaining positions, the Board of Governors decided to establish in the JOURNAL an "Employment Page." Advertisements on that page will be available to members of the S. M. P. E. and to manufacturing concerns who wish to secure trained men for positions. Material for publication is subject to editing and must be sent to the General Office of the Society by the 10th of the month prior to publication. Manufacturers and others seeking engineers are invited to address replies to these advertisements at the box number indicated. All replies will be forwarded directly to the advertiser.

Each employment advertisement shall not exceed one-sixth page in length; a charge of \$2.00 will be made for a single insertion, or \$5.00 for three consecutive insertions.

PACIFIC COAST SECTION

At a meeting held on June 16, 1932, at Hollywood, after the usual routine business, a communication directed to the president of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences was read, inviting members of the Technicians Branch of the Academy to attend meetings of the local S. M. P. E. section. In his reply, Mr. Levee, president of the Academy, stated that the matter was being referred to Mr. Lester Cowan, executive secretary, for further action. After a brief address by Dr. Lee de Forest, Mr. Elmer Richardson described to the section the activities of the Convention held in Washington, D. C., on May 9 to 12. The following papers were then presented: "Sixteen Millimeter Movietone Equipment," by Mr. J. Cass; "The Varo Lens," by J. A. Dubray; "Recording Lamps," by Bert Delaray. These papers were attended by demonstrations and an exhibition of sample equipment.

OPEN FORUM: HOW CAN THE SOCIETY OF MOTION PICTURE ENGINEERS BE OF GREATER SERVICE TO THE INDUSTRY?

The following is an abstract of suggestions made at the Open Forum at the Fall, 1931, Meeting of the Society at Swampscott, Mass.

(1) Sound reproduction in theaters needs greater refinement as the public has become much more critical of both sound and picture quality. The standard for projectionists should be raised in order to effect improvement in their work. (H. B. Franklin)

(2) More papers dealing with the fundamentals of the optical, physical, and electrical aspects of the industry are needed for the JOURNAL and fewer papers on descriptions of miscellaneous mechanisms. (D. MacKenzie)

(3) The Society should encourage more fundamental research in universities. An effort should be made to increase our membership among the staffs and the post-graduate students of colleges. Lower entrance fees would help to encourage such memberships as well as to make the JOURNAL more accessible to these members who now rely on the "library copy." (A. C. Hardy)

(4) Greater emphasis should be placed on the importance of increasing our membership among executives of the larger producing and manufacturing com-

panies. A special branch of the Membership Committee should be appointed to do this work. (G. E. Matthews)

(5) Papers on specific subjects should be segregated as much as possible in order that members attending the convention may hear all the papers of interest to them on one or two days and get away again if it is desired to do so. (H. H. Strong)

(6) An effort should be made to increase the Society's membership among projectionists, theater managers, and theater technicians. If the managers could be shown that membership in our Society indicated a better type of projectionist, it should help raise the standard of projection. (D. T. McNamara)

(7) It is a reflection on the engineers of the industry that the director should outstrip them in doing his job better than the engineer. Our Society can be of greater service to the industry by making every effort to improve existing conditions in the recording and reproduction of sound and in the technic of processing the film. It is our job to educate the producer as to what constitutes good sound and to show him the fallacy of using poor equipment. (W. H. Carson)

(8) Our Society could certainly be of much greater service to the producer than it has been in the past, and indirectly we could win his confidence and have more of his problems referred to us. A section of our JOURNAL might be devoted to the subject "Inventions Needed," wherein the nucleus of new ideas could be suggested. Many useful ideas regarding equipment are being worked out constantly in the studios; these ideas should be collected and a description of them published. Standards on materials used for set construction would be helpful to the producer. As an example, a certain medicinal mineral oil is used to produce fog effects in the studio. A less expensive oil might be found which would be equally as effective. Engineering data could be obtained from the manufacturers of lamps, motors, *etc.*, and published for consultation by the producer. Committees should study the problems confronting the producer and make recommendations for better practice. For example, a graphic method of monitoring sound might be worked out which would be more effective and accurate of interpretation than the present method of relying on the opinion of the monitor man. Our Society should also investigate the design of sound studios. (M. W. Palmer)

(9) A chief aim of our Society during the coming year should be to convince the producer that we are in a position to be of real service to him in the solution of his engineering problems. This was shown very clearly on the wide film problem in connection with the work of the Standards Committee under the chairmanship of A. C. Hardy. Another example of the type of salesmanship needed was that given by our past president, J. I. Crabtree, who personally obtained many of the sustaining memberships and thus made possible the establishment of our permanent executive office and our monthly JOURNAL. Every effort should be made by every member to cooperate fully with the producing organizations. (E. I. Sponable)

ACADEMY OF MOTION PICTURE ARTS AND SCIENCES

A meeting of the Academy was held on June 15 at Hollywood for the purpose of discussing the methods of adapting sound recording and processing equipment to a new technic described as *split film recording*. This technic permits the

recording of sound on one-half the width of the standard 35 millimeter positive. In a method adopted by one studio, the sound track film is run through the recorder once, and is then turned over and run through again, placing a sound track along each side. After developing and drying, the film is split so as to separate the two sound tracks, which may then be matched with their corresponding picture negatives in the subsequent synchronizing and editing processes. Methods by which 17¹/₂ millimeter stock may be used for original recording and editing processes were also discussed.

NEW AMENDMENTS

Of the amendments proposed by the Constitutional Committee, and submitted to the Board of Governors, the following were approved by the general Society on May 9 at the Spring, 1932, Meeting at Washington, D. C.

BY-LAW I Membership

Section 3. Applicants for active membership shall give as references at least three active members in good standing, and for associate membership, at least one active member in good standing. Applicants shall be elected to membership by the approval of at least three-fourths of the board of governors.

BY-LAW III Board of Governors

Section 2. A majority of the board of governors shall constitute a quorum at regular meetings.

Section 3. When voting by letter ballot, a majority affirmative vote of the total membership of the board of governors shall carry approval, except as otherwise provided.

BY-LAW IV Meetings

Section 1. The location of each meeting of the Society shall be determined by the board of governors.

Section 3. A quorum of the Society shall consist in number of one-tenth of the total number of active members as listed in the Society's records at the close of the last fiscal year.

BY-LAW VII Dues and Indebtedness

Section 1. The admission fee for applicants to the grade of active membership shall be \$10.00, and for the grade of associate membership, \$5.00.

Section 2. The transfer fee from the associate grade to the active grade of membership shall be the difference between the above-mentioned fees, or \$5.00.

BY-LAW X Local Sections

Section 8 (e). A section board of managers shall defray all expenses of the section not provided for by the board of governors, from funds raised locally by donation, or by fixed annual dues, or by both.

Section 10. Papers shall be approved by the section's papers committee

previously to their being presented before a section. Manuscripts of papers presented before a section, together with a report of the discussions and the proceedings of the section meetings, shall be forwarded promptly by the section secretary-treasurer to the secretary of the general Society. Such material may, at the discretion of the board of editors of the general Society, be printed in the Society's publications.

SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Agfa Ansco Corp.
Bausch & Lomb Optical Co.
Bell & Howell Co.
Bell Telephone Laboratories, Inc.
Case Research Laboratory
Du Pont Film Manufacturing Co.
Eastman Kodak Co.
Electrical Research Products, Inc.
Mole-Richardson, Inc.
National Carbon Co.
RCA Photophone, Inc.
Technicolor Motion Picture Corp.

HONOR ROLL

OF THE

SOCIETY OF MOTION PICTURE ENGINEERS

By action of the Board of Governors, October 4, 1931, this Honor Roll was established for the purpose of perpetuating the names of distinguished pioneers who are now deceased:

LOUIS AIMÉ AUGUSTIN LE PRINCE
WILLIAM FRIESE-GREENE
THOMAS ALVA EDISON
GEORGE EASTMAN
