

SOCIETY ANNOUNCEMENTS

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the Standards Committee held on June 11th at the Hotel Pennsylvania, New York, N. Y., new drafts of the drawings for the revised issue of the Standards Booklet were carefully considered by the Committee, and the complete revision will probably be ready for the final action of the Committee within a few weeks. As announced previously, no change is being made in the content of the drawings, but an effort is being made to present the material in a more lucid and practicable fashion.

PROJECTION PRACTICE COMMITTEE

The last regular monthly meeting of the Committee was held on June 18th at the Paramount Building, New York, N. Y., at which plans to be followed by the Committee in the fall were discussed. Particular attention is being paid to the question of screen brightness and theater illumination, in collaboration with the Projection Screen Brightness Committee whose reports appeared in the May, 1936, issue of the JOURNAL. A study is being made also of the various state and municipal ordinances pertaining to motion picture projection, with the idea in view of paving the way toward greater uniformity in these regulations in the future.

PACIFIC COAST SECTION

On May 26th a joint meeting of the Pacific Coast Section of the S. M. P. E. and the Technicians Branch of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences was held at the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Studios, at Culver City, Calif.

Approximately 400 persons attended the meeting. Mr. Gerald Rackett, Chairman of the Pacific Coast Section, acted as chairman of the meeting, introducing Mr. Douglas Shearer, Sound Director of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Studios, who conducted the symposium on "Essential Improvements Achieved in Sound-Film Recording and Reproduction in Adapting Conventional Methods to the High-Quality Requirements of Motion Pictures."

During the symposium Mr. Shearer discussed the following subjects, illustrating some of them by means of lantern slides or recordings:

"Push-pull" recording and reproduction as a means of attaining increased volume range and minimum distortion. Variable-width and variable-density methods and Class A and Class B systems. Adaptation to stereophonic reproduction.

Side matting of sound-tracks; manual and automatic.

Biasing methods; high-speed, carrier type, split-frequency, light-biasing.

Valve ribbon travel frequency intermodulation.

Ultraviolet and monochromatic recording.

Light-valve development and design.

Halation studies.

Complete re-recording of all release product as standard practice, and the choice of methods and standards for studio recording.

Improved sound printer developments.

Development of improved apparatus for moving sound-film without speed variation or flutter.

The general reproduction problem in the theater.

The Shearer two-way horn system.

Amplifier requirements.

Optimal reproducing scanning-slit width.

Screens.

The M-G-M automatic control system for production units.

A new type of recording microdensitometer.

In view of the fact that the meeting ran so late into the evening that there was no opportunity for discussion, an additional meeting was arranged for the evening of Tuesday, June 2nd, also at the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Studios. At this meeting Mr. Homer G. Tasker, President of the S. M. P. E., acted as Chairman. About 150 persons attended and a very lively and interesting discussion ensued based upon many of the subjects covered by Mr. Shearer at the previous meeting.