

SOCIETY ANNOUNCEMENTS

ATLANTIC COAST SECTION

At a meeting held on June 21st at the RCA Photophone Studios, New York, an elaborate demonstration of equipment, with descriptive paper, was given by Messrs. A. Goodman, R. J. Kowalski, W. F. Hardman, and E. S. Stanko of the RCA Manufacturing Company, Camden, N. J. The subject of the paper was "Safeguarding Theater Sound Reproduction with Modern Test Instruments." The emphasis of the presentation was on the instrumental means used by field engineers in servicing sound reproduction equipment. Among the instruments described were a cathode-ray oscillograph for plotting upon the fluorescent screen the response characteristic of an amplifier system; an instrument for plotting rapidly, with the aid of a warble-frequency film, the acoustic response of an auditorium; an extremely sensitive bridge for measuring electrical constants of reproducing circuits; a sound-level meter; and other instruments of great aid to the installation and service engineer.

PACIFIC COAST SECTION

At a meeting held at the General Service Studio at Hollywood, on June 27th, a special introduction and demonstration of the Vocoder was given through the courtesy of Electrical Research Products, Inc., and Bell Telephone Laboratories. The technical discussion and demonstration were made by Mr. H. Dudley of Bell Telephone Laboratories. The Vocoder, or voice analyzer-synthesizer, is somewhat similar to the Voder, which is on demonstration at the World's Fair. Its main difference is that the control is by a speaker's voice rather than by manually operated keys. Sounds are first separated into frequency bands, any of which may be treated in various ways at the will of the operator before recombining to produce some desired effect.

With this instrument, means are provided for changing speech or music in innumerable ways, by altering the tonal quality or characteristics, by varying or reversing the inflection, by raising or lowering the pitch, by adding other effects such as tremolo, to simulate the quavering voice of an aged person; and by modulating music or sound effects. The change in voice, as well as the creation of rather weird and inhuman, but still intelligible speech, has suggested the possibility of using the Vocoder principle in motion picture work, particularly for cartoons and in regular dubbing and sound-effects recording.

PROJECTION PRACTICE COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Sub-Committee on Fire Hazards was held at the office of the Society on June 28th, the principal subject of discussion being the heating of projection rooms.

A meeting of the general committee was held on July 20th, at the Paramount Building, New York, N. Y., at which time reports of the various sub-committees were considered for inclusion in the report of the Committee for the approaching Fall Convention. The Committee is pleased to announce that the proposed revisions of the NFPA Regulations for Handling Nitrocellulose Motion Picture Film were adopted, in their principal features, at the recent NFPA meeting at Chicago. A new edition of the Regulations is being prepared by the NFPA.

ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE

At a recent meeting of the Admissions Committee at the General Office of the Society, the following applicants for membership were admitted to the Associate grade:

ALDOUS, D. W. 290 Horns Rd., Ilford, Essex, England.	GRIGGS, H. F. Perry, Ga.
BLOCK, O. 610 Trinity Ave., Bronx, N. Y.	HOLMES, O. J. 1416 W. Clay St., Richmond, Va.
CURRIE, J. E. 356 W. 44th St. New York, N. Y.	NICKEL, F., JR. 229—4th Ave., New York, N. Y.
DOLLMAN, S. C. River Rd., Bound Brook, N. J.	PARISEAU, S. M. 1584 W. Washington Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif.
GREENE, A. 2202 80th St., Brooklyn, N. Y.	STACE, F. N. Wellington, New Zealand.
	WEISS, M. 210 Butler Ave., Buffalo, N. Y.