

## BOOK REVIEW

**Applied Acoustics;** Harry F. Olson and Frank Massa; *P. Blankiston's Son & Co. Inc.*, Philadelphia, Pa. (March, 1939).

Although the subject of acoustics is very old, the early publications are devoted principally to scientific explanation of the phenomena observed. Early work on apparatus for production of sounds was limited almost entirely to the field of musical instruments. The invention of the telephone and later the vacuum-tube amplifier opened the field of modern acoustics. Means for recording, transmitting, and reproducing sound shifted the emphasis on acoustics from its academic to its economic aspects. There followed a period of rapid development from which emerged industries of the first magnitude having their origin in applied acoustics.

This application of the science of acoustics is well treated in the book under review. The authors have had intimate contact with all the modern developments and have made many original contributions thereto. The early chapters give sufficient discussion of fundamentals to serve as a guide to experimental work and a check on results. The greater portion of the book, however, is devoted to a description of apparatus and technic which have been developed during the past two decades for use in the fields of radio broadcasting and sound pictures. The descriptive matter is written so as to be understandable without thorough mastery of the theoretical work. The apparatus is discussed both from the standpoint of the designer and the user.

The second edition is justified in view of the rapid strides which have been made recently in the development of microphones and loud speakers. While the principal changes from the earlier edition are in the discussions of these elements, changes in matter and presentation are made throughout the book where necessary to bring it up to date. It should be helpful to anyone desiring to become familiar with the latest developments in the field of applied acoustics.

C. A. LOVELL