

REPORT OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON SCREEN BRIGHTNESS*

The basic assignment of this Subcommittee of the Theater Engineering Committee of the Society has been, and still is, to find, or cause to be developed, instruments for measuring the uniformity and level of screen brightness and screen illumination. Since no instrument has been available having properties desired by the Subcommittee as outlined in a previous report,¹ development work on the part of instrument manufacturers is needed. Such development work has been out of the question during the war and the Subcommittee has therefore been unable to proceed.

In anticipation of relaxed pressure on development engineers in connection with war projects, the Subcommittee is now again active. The original specifications have been reviewed and approved, and letters have been sent to instrument manufacturers inviting their consideration of this problem. It is still too soon to know which ones may be willing to docket this project as very few replies have been received so far.

F. E. CARLSON, *Chairman*

REFERENCE

¹ "Report of Subcommittee on Screen Brightness," *J. Soc. Mot. Pict. Eng.*, XXXVIII, 1 (Jan., 1942), p. 81.

REPORT OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON THEATER ENGINEERING, CONSTRUCTION, AND OPERATION*

There has recently been formed a new committee of the Society, the Subcommittee on Theater Engineering, Construction, and Operation. This is a subcommittee of the Theater Engineering Committee which is under the chairmanship of Dr. Alfred N. Goldsmith. The membership is as follows:

HENRY ANDERSON, *Chairman*

H. BARNETT	T. T. GOLDSMITH
H. J. BENHAM	A. GOODMAN
F. E. CARLSON	J. J. HOPKINS
W. B. CUTTER	C. F. HORSTMAN
W. L. FLEISHER	E. R. MORIN
J. FRANK, JR.	BEN SCHLANGER

J. J. SEFING

* Presented May 14, 1945 at the Technical Conference in Hollywood.

We believe that this Subcommittee will be most effective in extending the activities of the Society by offering needed technical assistance to the motion picture theater industry. The Subcommittee intends to function in 2 principal ways:

First, it plans to investigate a number of special subjects relating to theaters, and to develop information valuable to the theater operator on such subjects as Theater Illumination, Ventilation, Cooling, and Air Conditioning, Acoustics, Seating, Theater Carpets, *etc.*

The Subcommittee will make a special effort to discover new applications to theater construction and operation of materials, processes, and inventions which have arisen out of the war effort.

The Subcommittee has already instituted a study of the subject of Theater Carpets. The whole group of subjects is highly technical and worthy of study by the Society's best engineering talent. It has been learned that while carpets have been developed to a high degree of perfection over a period of several thousand years by trial and error methods, there is nevertheless much research work being carried on by the larger manufacturers, and the Association of Carpet Manufacturers has an active Research Committee.

The manufacturers have been discouraged to find that, in spite of the efforts devoted to improve their product, a great deal of the effort is nullified by the consumer, of which the theater is one, who may in general be said to install and maintain his carpets in an unscientific, even unintelligent, manner. The Subcommittee is convinced, as are also the manufacturers, that in view of the huge sums spent by the theater industry for carpets, it may be instrumental in saving the motion picture industry very substantial sums of money now wasted because of improper carpet specification, installation, and maintenance.

Secondly, the Subcommittee will establish a suggested set of standards for theater construction and operation. At the present time numerous cities and states are extensively revising their building codes, and such codes in all instances contain special sections relating to theaters. Most of these codes have been developed by carrying along old untried specifications plus the introduction of new equally untried specifications. The industry has been at a disadvantage in meeting with code makers, for the industry has been poorly equipped with technical information necessary for dependable and useful standardization.

It is the intent of this Subcommittee to assist the industry in the

development of reasonable codes, by endeavoring to develop reasonable standards for such things as theater seating, theater illumination, stage curtains, stage skylights, exit facilities, and many other factors, that go into the development of a code.

The Chairman of the Subcommittee is a member of a committee appointed by the State of New York Labor Department which is now formulating a code covering all places of public assembly in the State. He is, therefore, informed upon the needs of a code-making authority. He has reported that the Recommended Standards of the Society of Motion Picture Engineers for Motion Picture Projection Rooms have been of great assistance to the New York State Committee and that the Society's standards will to a large degree be included in the new State code.

The Subcommittee will coordinate its efforts with the other committees of the Society. It will value comments and suggestions from the membership.

HENRY ANDERSON, *Chairman*