

BOOK REVIEWS

Television: The Eyes of Tomorrow. By William C. Eddy. Prentice-Hall, Inc. (New York), 1945, 330 pp.; illust. and diagrams; 6 × 9 in., \$3.75.

This book is written by a man who has had much experience in the television field. It is strongest and most valuable where it makes available to others the personal experiences of the author. His selection of secondary material, that is, the experiences of others, also adds to the value of the book as a record of practical experience.

The chapter "The Use of Film in Television" outlines experience with a variety of types of film presentation and ends with the conclusion:

"Whether or not film in television will increase in importance in future commercial programming remains an economic rather than an engineering problem. Based on the present development in this field, coupled with the possibilities that are known to exist in future improvements of the system, the popularity of film programs in the home is solely dependent on the entertainment value of the product. It is hoped that a satisfactory solution to the present economic impasse between broadcasters and film distributors will someday be effected and that eventually television will have a satisfactory film product available for programming."

The book is weakest in the chapters dealing with the technical aspects of television, as technical accuracy has been sacrificed at times in the attempt to secure a popular style of presentation. This is probably relatively unimportant in view of the main audience to which the book is addressed. The author was well aware of the hazards involved in writing a book of this type and disarms one by his remarks in the preface:

"Any person who deliberately takes it upon himself to write a book on television asks for criticism of both qualified critics and lay readers. . . .

"Experts in each field will necessarily point out wide discrepancies between my coverage of their specialty and the practical application of their trade on the studio floor."

D. R. WHITE
Mar. 20, 1946

Television Show Business. By Judy Dupuy. General Electric Company (Schenectady, New York), 1945, 246 pp.; illust. and diagrams; 8½ × 11 in., \$2.50.

This handbook of television programming and production, based on 5 years of operation of General Electric's Television Station, WRGB, Schenectady, New York, is the most complete and detailed account which has yet appeared in print of experience with television programs. As such it will be an invaluable guide to others in the television field. The treatment of the technical aspects of television is reduced to a brief popular account of little interest to an engineer but adequate for the intended reader.

The chapter "Films in Television" is probably the one of greatest interest to the Society members. This outlines various functions performed by films of different types, including their use as a supplement to live talent shows in order to circumvent certain of their limitations.

In common with other books on television this one involves a certain amount of prophecy. Concerning the role of motion pictures in television it says:

"Films will play a major role in television. It is safe to predict that future television programming will consist of about one-third studio shows, one-third remote pickups (mobile unit or distant permanent setups), and one-third motion pictures. These motion pictures may or may not be made exclusively for television. At first many of them will be motion pictures produced for movie theater showing.

"The future holds many unknown factors which will determine the relationship of motion pictures and television."

The General Electric Company has made a very worth-while contribution to the television industry in thus making available its experience at WRGB.

D. R. WHITE
Mar. 20, 1946

Report of Conference on Unification of Engineering Standards, Ottawa Canada, September-October, 1945. Combined Production and Resources Board. 90 pp.; 6 X 9 in. Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C.; 20 cents.

This report summarizes the proceedings of the third conference of representatives of the Canadian, British, and American standards associations on the question of unification of standards for screw threads, limits and fits, drawing practice, and metrology in countries using the "inch" system of measurement. Final agreement was reached on unified standards for acme and acme stub screw threads, buttress screw threads, fastening screws of the smaller sizes, and fine motion screws.

The possibility of developing a common standard for screws for camera and lens attachments, and the like, and for tools for screw thread production was referred to committees of the 3 standards associations for further consideration. A proposed specification for a basic screw thread form was prepared for submission to the industries concerned for comments.

No agreement was reached on unified standards for high duty studs in light alloys or for pipe threads. Two alterations in American War Standard B1.6 (June, 1945) on truncated Whitworth threads were recommended and referred to the American Standards Association for study.

Included in the report is a bibliography of standards to which reference was made during the conference, and tables listing the proposed screw thread series and screw thread symbols.

M. WRIGHT
Mar. 7, 1946