

Book Reviews

Applied Architectural Acoustics, by Michael Rettinger

Published (1947) by the Chemical Publishing Company, Inc., 2 Court St., Brooklyn, N. Y. 182 pages + 7-page index + xi pages. 69 illustrations. 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ × 8 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches. Price, \$5.50.

Directed to architects, engineers, contractors, and all those connected with the planning and construction of buildings in which the acoustic properties are of high importance, this compact work is not intended as a text but rather as a handbook for the man in the field. While the treatment is largely practical, sufficient theoretical matter is introduced to support adequately the techniques presented. The first four chapters (of a total of seventeen) are devoted to principles and theoretical reasoning.

Following chapters consider specific practical applications of the science of acoustics to motion picture theaters, scoring and sound stages, reverberation chambers, broadcast and television studios, hospitals, churches, and auditoria. The optimum shape and size of motion picture theaters and studios are specified as well as reverberation characteristics. Consideration is given to the monaural acoustic perspective occasioned by the "single-ear" performance of the microphone.

While acoustic insulation is a chapter subject, methods of insulating studios and stages are explained in detail in the respective chapters. A discussion of the performance characteristics of various types of microphones is included in the chapter "Auditoria," also suggestions for the effective use of microphones in public-address applications.

Although most of the reasoning is based upon geometrical acoustics, the groundwork is laid for the more exact analyses of physical or wave acoustics. As a handy pocket companion, this book offers much to the worker in architectural acoustics.

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Patent Notes for Engineers, by C. D. Tuska

Published (1947) by the *RCA Review*, Radio Corporation of America, RCA Laboratories Division, Princeton, N. J. 146 pages + vi pages + 4 pages + 15-page index. 37 illustrations. 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ × 9 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches. Price, \$2.50; foreign postage, 20 cents extra.

This book was published primarily for the use of the Patent Department of the Radio Corporation of America, and for the information of the scientists and engineers employed in RCA Laboratories Division and in all other RCA subsidiary companies. Nevertheless, it should be of general interest to all scientists, engineers, attorneys, and others concerned in any way with patent matters. The publisher refers to the book as the first volume in a new Engineering Book Series published by the *RCA Review* Department, the original manuscript being prepared by C. D. Tuska, Director of the Patent Department of the Radio Corporation of America.