

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.

C. S. PERKINS
Altec Service Corporation
New York 19, N. Y.

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.

The first chapters deal with the broad subject of what is, and what is not invention, and cite many examples and illustrations of patentability as determined by the courts in different fields of human endeavor. These chapters clearly indicate to scientists and engineers that "patentable intention" does not carry a label so inscribed.

As noted above, the book was written for a specific purpose, and so there is a chapter on invention record keeping, which is complete with illustrations of the invention disclosure forms in use by RCA. This information can be used to excellent advantage by all inventors.

The book also gives information on the prosecution of patent applications through their original preparation, amendments, appeals from Examiners' decisions to reissues and disclaimers. This is followed by a chapter containing general information on the technicalities involved in determining who is entitled to a patent on a single invention being disclosed and claimed in different applications. This should be of particular value to patent attorneys.

In the last chapter, the author has delved into his many years' experience for his pithy remarks relative to the ownership and use of patents, their purchase, licensing, and general value.

Considering the compass of the book, Mr. Tuska has presented a thorough, factual story of the realities of patents under existing patent law, and he does not indulge in any special theories or patent reforms. The book is well indexed, will be found to be an excellent tool for new patent practitioners, and is written in language readily understood by the layman interested in patent matters.

IRL R. GOSHAW
RCA Laboratories Division
Hollywood 38, California

Ten-Year Index 1936-1945

Late in March, 1948, a Ten-Year Index, covering the years 1936-1945, inclusive, was mailed to the membership of the Society. This Index contains a list of subjects and a list of authors, both of which are cross-indexed.

Copies are for sale at \$2.00 each, postpaid, and may be obtained from

Society of Motion Picture Engineers
342 Madison Avenue
New York 17, New York

Remittances should accompany orders.

