

Society Announcements

Czechoslovak Film Standards

As of July 1, 1948, the standard projection speed for 35-mm sound film in Czechoslovakia will be 25 frames per second rather than the American Standard of 24 frames per second. Mr. Frantisek Pilat, president of the Filmovy Technicky Sbor (Czechoslovak Motion Picture Engineering Committee), reports that this change was made because of the increased use of synchronous motors in theater projectors in that country and also because of the 50-cycle power-line frequency that is in common use in most European countries. With synchronous drive, speed-regulation problems cease to exist as long as the line frequency is constant, and, according to Mr. Pilat, practical tests proved that the resulting higher pitch of the reproduced sound created no practical problems since it was not observed by spectators.

International Scientific Film Congress

The second congress of The International Scientific Film Association will be held in London from October 4 to 11, 1948.

The Association was constituted last year in Paris by delegates from 22 countries who had accepted the joint invitation to the inaugural congress from The Scientific Film Associations of Great Britain and France. The primary aim of the Association is:

"To raise the standard and to promote the use of the scientific film and related material throughout the world in order to achieve the widest possible understanding and appreciation of scientific method and outlook, especially in relation to social progress."

This year's congress is being convened by The Scientific Film Association of Great Britain, with the help of The British Film Institute, and invitations have already been issued to countries throughout the world. The congress will open with a formal reception to the delegates on October 4 and the following three days will be devoted to business meetings of The International Scientific Film Association. On October 8, 9, and 10 there will be a Festival of Scientific Film when it is hoped to show many contributions from all the participating countries to members of the general public. The congress will close with a general assembly of the delegates on October 11.

The widespread public interest in England in the scientific film as evidenced by over 10,000 members of local scientific film societies, the introduction of scientific films and other visual aids into the educational program in that country and, in particular, the many pioneer activities of The Scientific Film Association with its country-wide membership make it particularly appropriate that this congress should be held in Great Britain. Visitors from overseas will have an opportunity of studying the many contributions which England has made by the use of films to the "widest possible understanding and appreciation of scientific method and outlook."

Further details may be obtained from The Scientific Film Association of 34 Soho Square, London, W.1.