Editorial Policy of the Journal

THE BOARD OF EDITORS has asked for a statement of editorial policy to guide them in considering papers submitted for publication in the JOURNAL. The following brief statement may also be of interest to prospective authors as a guide in preparing papers for presentation at Society meetings and for publication.

As stated in the Constitution, the objects of the Society include "dissemination of scientific knowledge by publication." Thus, the main purpose of the JOURNAL is to provide members with up-to-date, reliable information on engineering and scientific developments in motion picture and allied fields. Its scope includes new developments in materials, processes, and equipment from the raw film to projection in theater or home.

The chief requirements of an engineering paper are that it be clear, concise, accurate, and, above all, that it describe the results of genuine engineering investigation.

To elaborate on the above points, clarity in writing means not only good English which is not ambiguous, but it means that the author should have a clear picture of what he wants to say. Generally it is well to state the objective which the paper is intended to cover, to include experimental or calculated data relating to the subject of the paper, and to draw logical conclusions from a study of the data. Clarity of expression is often achieved by first outlining the main points and then filling in the details. The author must assume some knowledge of the subject on the part of the reader since a full explanation of the fundamentals would make the paper longer than could be published. References to previously published material often serve in place of long explanations which would be required for a person having little or no familiarity with the subject.

Suitably drawn curves and diagrams are essential to most engineering papers. Standard electrical and mechanical symbols should, of course, be used in all drawings. It is important that lines and lettering be of such a size that they will be clear and legible when reduced to fit in a JOURNAL page.

The question of how long a paper should be can be answered only by saying that it should be no longer than is necessary to express clearly

the information and conclusions applicable to the subject. In particular, a paper should not contain a long historical review, minor details, or information which properly belongs only in a supplier's catalog. The high cost of printing also makes it necessary to ask authors not to use any more illustrations than necessary, particularly avoiding multiple views of commercial equipment.

Accuracy is as essential in writing a paper as in performing an experiment. This means not only accurate statements but the use of accurate and reliable data, taken under carefully controlled condition and expressed in standard terms. Accuracy of statement includes implications as well as facts. A statement which implies more than the facts warrant has no place in an engineering paper. Quotations or statements attributed to others should, of course, not be used without permission.. For the salesman a recital of the accomplishments of a new piece of equipment may be satisfactory, but an engineer wants to know how it works and why. The explanation may not be mathematically exact but it should be logical and should be based on sufficient actual test data so that it may reasonably represent the results to be expected by other users of the same apparatus and methods. A single test or observation should never be the basis of a scientific paper.

In conclusion it may be stated that the aim of the JOURNAL is to present scientific and engineering papers of the highest grade. To this end authors should keep in mind that papers should be written with the object of imparting engineering information and not for the sake of advertising a product. It is the duty of the Papers Committee and the Board of Editors to select papers which in their opinion most nearly fill the above requirements.

CLYDE R. KEITH
Editorial Vice-President