

Engineering Vice-President Bowditch reviewed briefly the work of the eighteen different engineering committees that are now active, including the reorganization of television work, reported on page 509 of the April JOURNAL. The outcome of this program, which stresses co-operation with the Institute of Radio Engineers and the Radio Manufacturers Association, should be in the direction of more effective committee work in all three organizations with a minimum of effort. Continuing JOURNAL reports on the Society's work in theater television were requested, at least until conclusive action is taken by the FCC.

Editorial Vice-President Keith reported the receipt of two replies to the article on Research Fellowships that had appeared in the February JOURNAL. The Illuminating Engineering Society currently has a committee considering the granting of such Fellowships, and it was suggested that Mr. Keith look into the matter with representatives from the IES.

The recently proposed Amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws have received official endorsement, and now the committee, under the Society's Secretary, Robert M. Corbin, responsible for that work, has accepted the job of revising the Administrative Practices. These are a set of Board-approved rules governing in a practical way the operations of Society Headquarters and the Society's many committees. Changes will be recommended in order to bring the Administrative Practices into line with the present Constitution and Bylaws.

The next meeting of the Board of Governors, scheduled for July 26, will be held in New York City. In the meantime, the Sustaining Membership Committee, the Membership and Subscription Committee and Society Headquarters will bend every effort toward increasing support which the Society receives.

## **67th Convention**

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The Society's 67th Convention opened officially on April 24 with a luncheon at The Drake hotel in Chicago. Members who attended the luncheon were treated to a very enthusiastic statement of intentions in theater television presented by Spyros P. Skouras, President of the Twentieth Century-Fox Film Corp. Mr. Skouras indicated with some emphasis that his company intended to proceed with plans to establish a theater television network in a West Coast area without waiting for formal action by the Federal Communications Commission. Arrangements would be made with the local telephone companies for cable service between theaters and the originating point. Action, he stated, would be taken by early 1951.

Attendance at the Convention was more than satisfactory, with over 200 registrants for the week and an additional 100 daily registrants for each of the five days of the week-long meeting.

Outstanding among those attending were four members of the University of Southern California Student Chapter: Algernon Walker, James L. Wilkinson, William R. Kells and Eric T. Sjolander; and Wilbur T. Blume, a member of the USC Faculty. These five members drove from California to Chicago, stopping at universities along the way to inspect motion picture production and visual education facilities.

There was a total of eleven committee meetings held during the week, running from Sunday, April 23 through Saturday, April 29. Future issues of the JOURNAL will carry progress reports on the work of the majority of these committees.

On Tuesday evening those who attended the convention were guests of WGN-TV Television Station and were escorted through the Tribune Tower Studios at 435 N. Michigan Ave. The studios have been under construction for some time and members who are familiar with studio design and the solution of architectural and acoustics problems were tremendously interested in the choice of materials and their application to this impressive arrangement of combined television and radio facilities. The Society extends its enthusiastic gratitude to Carl Meyers, Director of Engineering, and F. R. McNichol, Engineering Department, WGN TV.

On Wednesday evening, the semiannual Cocktail Hour, Banquet and Dance were held in the Gold Coast Room of The Drake hotel. Bill Kunzmann was as always the Society's genial host and provided a most entertaining evening for all.

On Thursday evening, Wilding Picture Productions was host to Society members who visited the studio at 1345 Argyle St.

The Convention closed late Friday afternoon, April 28, with a few encouraging words from Mr. Kunzmann, who reports that in all respects the Convention was more than a modest success. Papers presented will begin to appear in the JOURNAL beginning in the late summer and will probably continue until about the first of 1951.

## Theater Carpeting Manuals Available

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The Theater Engineering Committee has for some time contemplated publishing a report on theater carpeting that would be a generally useful guide to theater owners and operators who purchase fairly large quantities of carpeting. It would necessarily have to be quite comprehensive in presenting recommended practices for the selection, maintenance and care of theater carpet based upon actual theater experience. After considerable work in this direction had been undertaken, in the form of a survey, it was decided that certain publications already available adequately covered the major questions on theater and hotel carpeting. The SMPTE has, therefore, made arrangements to secure for interested persons a package of the following two publications:

*Handbook for Carpet Layers*, The Carpet Institute, Inc.

*Carpets and Their Maintenance*, prepared for The American Hotel Association by The York Research Corp., in co-operation with The Carpet Institute, Inc., and The National Institute of Rug Cleaners, Inc.

The Committee feels that with this information at hand, and with his personal experience, the average theater man will have available *nearly* all that he needs to know about the subject.

In reviewing these documents, however, various members of the Committee agreed that there are a few additional points unique to theater work that should be added. Pattern selection, for instance, should depend not only on the theater motif, but on the size of the floor areas involved. Large areas usually demand a larger pattern, and the trend has been toward larger patterns with repeats as great as 60 in. Matching background designs are also available without the large pattern, so that the over-all pattern can be used in a foyer and standee area, and the stairways can carry the matched background only. In this way, the large