

## Engineering Committees

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The semiannual conventions of the Society offer an opportunity for the engineering committees to meet and carry on their work with considerably greater ease than at other times of the year. During the week of the 67th Convention in Chicago, nine engineering committee meetings were held with nearly 100 members in attendance. A few of the highlights of these meetings follow:

### 16-Mm Projection Lamps

An outstanding example of the industry's co-operation to achieve standards in the best interests of the consuming public has been the work on projection lamps by the 16- and 8-mm Committee. Under the leadership of Henry Hood, the manufacturers of incandescent projection lamps and the 16- and 8-mm projector manufacturers got together to discuss the possibility of establishing one standard for the recently introduced medium-focus, base-up lamps.

Prior to this meeting, two manufacturers, namely General Electric and Bell & Howell, had proposed designs for the mounting dimensions for this type of lamp. Both companies, however, in the interests of establishing one standard, agreed to dedicate their patent rights to the public if the Committee decided to accept their design as the standard. As it turned out, the G.E. proposal was accepted and outline drawings giving the pertinent dimensions have been distributed to the Committee for ballot action.

### 16-Mm Sound Reproduction

Ever since the war, manufacturers have been trying to improve the quality of 16-mm projectors. Recently, three new models of high professional quality have been introduced. If these new projectors are ever to receive wide acceptance, the general commercial quality of 16-mm release prints will have to be improved. To meet this end, the Committee under E. W. D'Arcy has been at work for almost two years trying to establish standard review room conditions for judging the quality of such prints.

At the meeting in Chicago, it was agreed to revise an earlier draft of these recommendations so as to specify not only the frequency response characteristics of such a system but also the acoustical qualities of the various review rooms and other pertinent requirements for the reproducer itself. A revised draft incorporating these changes is now in the hands of approximately 80 people who are qualified to judge its acceptability. If no adverse criticisms are received within the next 30 days, it will be published in the *JOURNAL* and publicized as widely as possible in the hopes that 16-mm producers and processing laboratories will adopt these recommendations as a quality control measure.

### Film Dimensions

Over the past 30 years there have been many discussions within the motion picture industry concerning the desirability of establishing a single perforation for both positive and negative 35-mm film. Since 1916 there have always existed at least two types of 35-mm perforation. Recently, however, with the increased interest in color, the whole question has again been under review by the Film Dimensions Committee under Dr. E. K. Carver's chairmanship. In April, 1949, the Committee recommended the adoption of the so-called Dubray-Howell per-

foration, as the single standard, and it was described in the JOURNAL of that month.

Shortly after publication, however, Ansco pointed out that while this proposal was probably superior to present practice, there might be a perforation which was even better and Ansco proposed another design. At the Chicago Convention, Ansco representatives presented extensive test data, indicating that their proposal may be superior and certainly throwing doubt on the advisability of tying off on any new standard too quickly.

Consequently, further tests will be run by Ansco as well as by the Motion Picture Research Council in an attempt to determine the most desirable design. It was strongly urged by all concerned, however, that these tests be conducted as rapidly as possible since there may never be another opportunity to replace the two present standards with a single standard satisfactory for both negative and positive films. W. V. Wolfe, President of the Research Council, warned that even a delay of six months may be too long since many of the new color processes are already adopting standards.

## Society Announcements

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**Dues payments** from outside the United States must be made in U.S. dollars. The dues payments of all new members after July 1 are required to be in U.S. dollars; and, of course, all payments of annual dues are subsequently to be made in U.S. currency.

**June brings graduates**—we are reminded by our Student Chapters at New York University and at the University of Southern California, and also by some interesting information from the Rochester Institute of Technology.

For information about Society student members being graduated, or about students seeking summer work, the industry is advised to write:

*New York University:* Faculty Adviser, Dr. Robert Gessner, Washington Square College of Arts and Sciences, New York University, Washington Square, New York 3.

*University of Southern California:* Faculty Adviser, Mr. Wilbur T. Blume, Acting Head, Department of Cinema, University of Southern California, 659 W. 35 St., Los Angeles 7, Calif.

*Rochester Institute of Technology:* C. B. Neblette, Supervisor, Department of Photographic Technology, Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester 8, N.Y.

The courses at New York University are given to provide basic cultural training in the liberal arts and sciences and an introduction to, and orientation in, the interpretive problems of motion picture writing and production.

The University of Southern California provides fundamental orientation in the principles of photography and in the tools and techniques of the motion picture profession. There are courses on the philosophical aspects and aesthetics of the film and there is advanced training in production techniques including camera equipment, sound recording, production supervision and the responsibilities of the director, as well as a practical workshop giving guidance in the actual preparation of educational films.