

Engineering Activities

Television Film Equipment

During 1950, the Society joined with the Institute of Radio Engineers and the Radio-Television Manufacturers Association (RTMA) in a cooperative program of standardization and exchange of technical data. One result was the combining of two Society Committees, the Films From Television Committee and the Television Film Projectors Committee, with similar RTMA projects, under a Television Film Equipment Committee. This joint group under the enthusiastic Chairmanship of Frank N. Gillette, General Precision Laboratory, met last October during the Convention at Lake Placid and again on January 4 in New York City.

At the recent meeting, agreement was reached on a Proposed Standard for 16-Mm Projectors for Television Film Chains Operating on Full-Storage Basis. To bring the proposal into line with the standards policies of RTMA and SMPTE, certain proprietary references were deleted and it has become largely a detailed specification for performance of the equipment. Tests, methods of measurement, references to specific test films and to particular test equipments are also included.

The Committee received favorably suggestions for area of scan on 16-mm film and for picture area in video recording. The dimensions considered with the reason for being selected will be put into the form of a Proposed American Standard. After balloting of the entire Committee, the proposals will doubtless be published in the JOURNAL for a short period of trial and criticism.

Substantial agreement was also reached on a proposal to publish recommended standard dimensions for slides and opaques. The 2 × 2 in. transparent slide and the 4 × 5 in. opaque were considered most desirable, so the Committee will shortly vote upon them.

16-Mm and 8-Mm

The 16-Mm and 8-Mm Motion Pictures Committee, under the chairmanship of Henry Hood, has been exceptionally active. Several of the projects will soon appear in the JOURNAL, notably the proposals on 16-mm and 8-mm film splices and on 16-mm projection reels. One project, "Recommendations for 16-Mm Review Rooms and Reproducing Equipment," developed by a subcommittee under the chairmanship of E. W. D'Arcy, appears elsewhere in this issue of the JOURNAL. It is being published as an interim committee report in the hope that sufficient comments will be received during the ensuing year to enable the committee to formulate proposals for standardization.

Sound

At the Lake Placid Convention, the Sound Committee, under Acting Chairman, John Frayne, was faced with the urgent problem of reaching agreement on proposed standards for magnetic sound tracks on film. Protracted delay would result in incompatibility with the first equipments appearing on the market. Even more serious is the probability that the first manufacturer to produce a magnetic sound projector commercially would set the standard. With this understanding, the Committee hammered out Proposed American Standards for Magnetic Sound Track on 35- and 17½-Mm Film, 16-Mm Film, and 8-Mm Film and submitted them to the Standards Committee for its recommendations on publication for a 90-day trial. They will probably be published within the next few months.

The status of the Proposed American Standards for Sound Transmission of Theater Projection Screens published for trial in the July, 1950, JOURNAL, was reviewed. Inasmuch as no adverse criticism had been received, it was agreed to submit it to the Standards Committee for recommendations on final approval as an American Standard.

In addition, plans were made for increasing activity on lead sulfide phototubes and standards for 16-mm magnetic film, coated full width.