

## Engineering Activities

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**Film Dimensions Committee** The Committee met in May 1951 and in the absence of its Chairman, Dr. E. K. Carver, Dr. A. C. Robertson presided.

The main discussion centered around the problem raised by the decrease in the shrinkage characteristic of the film base over the years. In order to obtain optimum printing results now, negative film must have a pitch somewhat less than presently stipulated in the Standard for cine negative (PH22.34) under dimension B.

This then requires revision of the Standard. Two viewpoints were expressed as to how to proceed: (1) revise the Standard after sufficient data is available to standardize the cutting and perforating dimensions *at the time of use*, rather than at the time of manufacture; or (2) merely change dimensions B and L to a short pitch dimension in accord with present (but nonstandard) practices. It was indicated that the first procedure would require at least three years whereas the latter, possibly less than a year. Although it was generally felt that the first approach was more desirable, the other was considered a practical stopgap measure. It was, therefore, agreed to combine the two, preparing the groundwork for the long-range project while revising the present Standard for immediate use.

In addition, the problems involved in the use of film for computers were aired

and several standards were reviewed as to their potential value for proposal as international standards.

**Sound Subcommittee on Magnetic Recording** The status of the three Proposed American Standards initiated by the group was discussed at the last Committee meeting, held during the 69th Convention in May 1951 and chaired by Glen Dimmick. At that time, the proposals were before the Standards Committee which was balloting on the question of preliminary publication for trial and comment. (They were published in the *July Journal*.) Comments which had been received in the course of the balloting were analyzed and most of the meeting was devoted to improving the three Proposals. In the end it was agreed that early publication was more important than minor, though valid, revisions which would require redrafting the Standards and additional Committee approval via letter ballots. The indicated changes could then be made after all comments resulting from trial publication have been received.

The remainder of the meeting revolved about the drafting of Magnetic Test Film Standards, primarily for azimuth and frequency of 16-mm and 35-mm film. Mr. Dimmick is to prepare preliminary drafts and circulate them to the Committee for comments.—H.K.

## BOOK REVIEWS

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### **Elements of Television Systems**

By George E. Anner. Published (1951) by Prentice-Hall, 70 Fifth Ave., New York 11. i-xii + 760 pp. + 11 pp. appendix + 18 pp. problems + 13 pp. index. 400 illus.  $5\frac{1}{2} \times 8\frac{1}{2}$  in. Price \$10.35.

Even with the postwar commercialization of television and the most generous oversupply of technical books, there has been no book that could satisfy the need for a genuine television engineering text. For the service technician there are so many books that they crowd the test

equipment off his shelves; there is even a television encyclopedia on the service-technical level. But until the publication of Prof. Anner's volume, there has not been a thorough, rigorous engineering treatment of television.

For this reason alone, *Elements of Television Systems* is an important book. It is written by an eminently qualified person, for George Anner, as Assistant Professor of Electrical Engineering at New York University, has for three years held television courses at both graduate and