

lems and activities of ISCC member associations.

The Nominating Committee of the ISCC has announced the following slate for 1952-53 officers: *Chairman*, E. I. Stearns (AATCC and IMG); *Vice-Chairman*, C. R. Conquergood (NAPIM and IMG); *Secretary*, Dorothy Nickerson (OSA and IMG); *Treasurer*, Norman

Macbeth (IES); and *Counsellors*, I. A. Balinkin (outgoing Chairman (ACerS)), Waldron Faulkner (AIA), Gladys Miller (AID), Procter Thomson (AOCS), and Frank J. O'Neil (AATCC and IMG).—*Dorothy Nickerson*, Cotton Branch, PMA, U.S. Dept. Agriculture, Washington 25, D.C.

Book Reviews

Ideas on Film (A Handbook for the 16-Mm Film User)

Edited by Cecile Starr. Published (1951) by Funk & Wagnalls Co., 153 E. 24 St., New York 10. i-xix + 238 pp. + 11 pp. index. 6 × 9 in. Price \$4.50.

The main purpose of this volume is to acquaint nontheatrical film users with the problems of production and sponsorship of documentary and educational pictures, and to suggest criteria of choice to the ever-increasing legions of these consumers. Miss Starr, as Nontheatrical Film Editor of the *Saturday Review of Literature*, has used wisely the columns of her magazine to serve precisely that end, and the articles of a score of her distinguished contributors form the body of this intelligent and articulate book.

The multifaceted aspect of the non-theatrical field is examined by such experts as Rudolph Arnheim, Julien Bryan, Kenneth Macgowan, Arthur Meyer, Raymond Spottiswoode, Willard Van Dyke and many others; each in his own sphere scrutinizes the challenge of the "idea" film and discusses its prospect as an expanding factor in our country's intellectual maturing. Miss Starr herself contributes important articles on a variety of subjects, in addition to selecting a list of reviews of some 200 top documentary and educational pictures, and compiling other essential data for the users of 16-mm film.

The foreword, by Irving Jacoby, tackles the basic problem of these films' purpose, which is "essentially to influence what people think." "In these troubled days," writes Mr. Jacoby, "when our freedoms and our dignities are under attack from all sides, we may not at first like the idea of being 'influenced' or even of 'influencing,'

for the word carries overtones of violence, expediency, and even contempt for the object that is to be won, changed, and redirected: the human mind." This clear understanding of the nontheatrical film's "propaganda" mission establishes, with eloquence and persuasion, the proper perspective for the whole book.

Miss Starr's collaborators are well aware of this essential nature of their chosen field, and their substantial measure of success in its theoretical and practical manifestations is what makes *Ideas on Film* a valuable and penetrating contribution to our grasp of the complexities of our times.—*George L. George*, Screen Directors Guild, New York.

Fundamentals of Vacuum Tubes

By Austin V. Eastman. Published (1949) by McGraw-Hill, 330 W. 42nd St., New York 18, N.Y. i-xxi + 600 pp. + 30 pp. appendix + 13 pp. index. 460 illus. 6 × 9 in. Price \$6.00.

Updating a long-valuable reference and study text, this third edition has revisions occasioned principally by natural advances in electron tubes. In the main, the changes are those which new types have made necessary, and many obsolete tube types have been deleted. Specific improvements over the second edition include a more complete description of the phenomena of current flow through gases, an enlargement to more useful size of many of the charts depicting tube characteristics, and a revised treatment of audio amplifiers to include the concept of gain treated as a vector, taking into consideration the phase angle of the amplifier and its effect on absolute gain and frequency response.

In view of the widespread use of voltage-multiplying circuits in many current

electronic applications, the information on this subject has been enlarged appreciably. A general rearrangement of much of the material provides separate chapters on modulators and demodulators, with much new material on pulse-width, pulse-time, and pulse-amplitude circuits, with a satisfactory analysis of these relatively unfamiliar applications. The material on power series analysis has been expanded into a separate chapter with improved clarity and usefulness.

As in previous editions, the referencing to earlier literature is complete and thorough, making the book one of value to the student as well as to the more advanced reader who may use the volume as a refresher.—*C. G. McProud*, Editor, Audio Engineering, 342 Madison Ave., New York 17, N.Y.

Kino Geraete Technik

By Dr.-Ing. Harald Weise. *In German*. Published (1950) by Akademische Verlagsgesellschaft, Geest & Portig K.-G., Leipzig C 1, Germany. 364 pp. Many schematic and line drawings. 16 pp. supplement of equipment photographs. 6 × 8¼ in. Available in U.S. from Stechert-Hafner, Inc., 31 East 10th St., N.Y. 3. Price \$5.00.

It is rare that one encounters a comparative work on mechanism design which manages to present a thorough study of the fundamental kinematics, as well as complete functional descriptions of the equipment. In the German-language volume, *Kino Geraete Technik*, the designer of motion picture apparatus is fortunate in finding just such a work.

This is the first part of a proposed two-volume set on substandard (8-mm and 16-mm) motion picture equipment, of which the volume here reviewed deals with cameras. Volume 2 will deal with projection apparatus. The author says

in his foreword that additional similar works on theatrical (35-mm) and still equipment are in preparation.

Anyone familiar with the problems of optical and mechanical mechanism design is likely to be awed by the painstaking detail with which each component of the many makes of equipment has been analyzed. The author has reduced to their fundamental principles film drives, intermittent movements, film paths, registration devices, mirror and prism systems, shutters, motors, governors, counters, magazines, etc. The task seems all the more impressive when one notes the author's statement that his data were derived primarily from sample units, photographs, catalogs, and technical papers, and only in rare instances from manufacturers' drawings. Thus the book is truly a monumental achievement in careful measurement and analysis.

It is this exceptional accuracy, and the care taken to preserve correct proportions and "unitless" diagrams, which make *Kino Geraete Technik* so valuable to the motion picture equipment designer. In addition, manufacturers and personnel utilizing motion picture apparatus in research work and photographic instrumentation will be able to gain much qualitative and quantitative information from this book.

From its early chapters on the basic physical and physiological factors of the motion picture medium, right through its exhaustive bibliography and pictorial supplement, the work is clearly and concisely written, and liberally illustrated with diagrams and graphs. An effort has been made to trace the historical evolution of many of the mechanisms, giving an insight into the trial-and-error progress of the art, and pointing the way toward future development.—*Peter V. Norden*, J. A. Maurer, Inc., 37-01 31st St., Long Island City 1, N.Y.

Journal indexes covering the thirty-four years from 1916 through 1950 may be purchased from Society Headquarters.

1916-1930 \$1.25 1930-1935 \$1.25 1936-1945 \$2.00 1946-1950 \$1.50

SMPTE Officers and Committees: The roster of Society Officers and the Committee Chairmen and Members were published in the April *Journal*.