

Engineering Activities

Three meetings of interest were held recently, only one of a Society engineering committee. The highlights of these meetings are outlined below.

PH22 Led by its new Chairman, D. R. White, ASA Sectional Committee on Standards for Motion Pictures, PH22, met November 29, 1951, and had a very fruitful session with an agenda limited to three key items.

Letter Ballots: Three letter ballots were considered and acted upon:

1. Two proposed standards for 35mm multifrequency test films, PH22.63 and PH22.64, held in abeyance for some time as a result of a major consumer's negative vote, were returned to the Sponsor for resolution of the existing differences.

2. A proposed revision of the standard for 16mm reels, PH22.11, was approved and forwarded to the Sponsor.

3. The ballot on the 16Mm Edge Numbering Proposal, PH22.83, was incomplete and the Chairman was authorized to close the ballot at his own discretion.

ISO: Questions relating to a contemplated meeting of ISO TC/36 (International Standards Organization Technical Committee on Cinematography) in New York in June 1952 were thoroughly reviewed. It was decided to canvass the participating members concerning their interest in attending such a meeting, informing them of our willingness to call one if there is promised attendance from abroad. (The ASA, Secretariat of TC/36, subsequently sent a modified version of a letter drafted by PH22.)

PH22 Scope: The new scope, endorsed at the last meeting, was criticized in the interim as excessively broad and two alternate proposals were offered for Committee consideration. A compromise between the two was approved as the Committee recommendation to the SMPTE, which as Sponsor, has the final word on the scope to be submitted to the ASA.

IRS The IRS was formed in April 1950 as a coordinating committee of three Societies (IRE, RTMA, SMPTE) to

eliminate or reduce duplication of work and areas of conflict in mutual spheres of activity, primarily in the field of television. Originally chaired by Axel Jensen and now by Fred Bowditch, the Committee met November 30 and December 20, 1951, to consider two main points.

Committee Addition: In the light of NARTB's renewed interest in standards activity, discussions were held as to the advisability of including it as a fourth member. After an affirmative vote at the first meeting, the NARTB was officially welcomed as a Committee member at the December meeting.

Recording Standards: CCIR's (International Radio Consultative Committee) program for standardizing radio program recordings for use between nations was outlined and the need for American Standards on sound recording was reviewed. The Committee concluded that the ASA Sectional Committee on Sound Recording, Z57, should be reactivated and proposed the procedure for achieving this.

New Name: The addition of a fourth member required a change in the IRS Committee name which was compounded from the first initials of the three participating Societies. "Joint Committee for Inter-Society Coordination," to be abbreviated "JCIC," won the day and is the new name of the Committee.

Television Studio Lighting Since its inception in January 1950 under the chairmanship of Richard Blount, this Committee has met about every three months. The Chairman noted, however, that very little has been accomplished this past year. The main discussion then centered on the cause of this situation and how to remedy it.

This very practical approach resulted in changes both in form and content of the Committee's work with accompanying changes in project responsibilities. Small subcommittees were eliminated and the entire Committee is to concentrate its attention on two main projects: lighting measurements and terminology.—Henry Kogel, Staff Engineer.