

Book Review

Auditoriums

No. 2 in a series, *Planning Schools for Use of Audio-Visual Materials*. Published (1953) by the Department of Audio-Visual Instruction, National Education Association, 1201 16th St., N.W., Washington 6, D.C. 36 pp. 13 illus. Paper bound. 6 × 9 in. Price \$1.00 (discounts for quantities).

Auditoriums is another result of a conference on audio-visual instruction which was reported by D. F. Lyman in the *Journal*, pp. 445-449, May 1952. Society members will be interested inasmuch as the booklet offers "basic performance standards for adequate utilization of motion pictures, slides, filmstrips, radio, television, recordings, opaque materials, and display and exhibit materials for groups larger than the single class unit."

Seating arrangements are suggested, and guidance is given for planning of an "activity area" of at least 15 to 20 ft between the stage and the front row of seats, furnished with a portable projection screen, microphone, electrical outlets, folding chairs, etc. Problems of acoustics are emphasized, and guidance from a qualified consultant is strongly urged. The use of splayed walls and of windowless walls are two modern trends in school auditoriums that are favored in dealing with acoustics problems.

A few pointers on wiring emphasize that it is cheaper to provide at the time of construction more outlets than are thought necessary than to add a few later. A check list is provided.

Methods of darkening auditoriums for motion picture projection, the desirable light level in the darkened hall, and screen surround are outlined under "Light Control," and under "Speakers" it is suggested that a sound-system specialist, not the

"local radio-man," be consulted on selection and installation.

The selection and placement of projection screens are covered and available types described. Projection niches for small auditoriums and booths for large ones are specified. The final section outlines who should select equipment and how it should be chosen, with a list of some specific points to consider. An appendix lists 54 manufacturers of pertinent equipment.

This well-done booklet, like its predecessor, is chiefly a public-relations product. It should be useful to the specialists to put in the hands of the layman in order to win support for new proposals. The designer or engineer who is concentrating on his job may find himself grateful to this educationists' group for verbalizing his ideas in terms understandable to the man who will pay the bill.—V.A.

New Audio Periodical

The Audio Engineering Society has established a quarterly *Journal* under the editorship of Lewis S. Goodfriend. The first issue has been announced to contain the 30 papers presented last October at the Fourth Annual Convention of the Society. The *Journal* is conceived as a medium for review and original research articles on broadcast audio systems, the recording and reproduction of sound (musical and otherwise), and certain other topics of particular interest to the professional audio engineer. Book reviews and other items of current interest will be published. Subscriptions may be entered by nonmembers at \$8.00 per year, by addressing the *Journal* of the Audio Engineering Society, P.O. Box 12, Old Chelsea Station, New York 11, N.Y. AES members will receive it as part of their membership.

Meetings

73d Semiannual Convention of the SMPTE, Apr. 27-May 1, Hotel Statler, Los Angeles
National Association of Radio and Television Broadcasters, 7th Annual Conf., Apr. 28-

May 1, Ambassador Hotel, Los Angeles

American Physical Society, Apr. 30-May 2, Washington, D.C.

Acoustical Society of America, May 7-9, Hotel Warwick, Philadelphia, Pa.