

## Engineering Activities

**New Engineering Vice-President**, Axel G. Jensen, faced as his first official task the appointment of all engineering committee personnel who, according to the Society's Bylaws, serve for a two-year term. Chairmen may be reappointed for a second term and members may be reappointed for any number of terms. Under these rules eight former chairmen, seven new chairmen, and some three hundred committee members, of whom 5 to 10% are new to committee work, were appointed. A complete roster of engineering committees will be published as usual in the April *Journal*.

**Dissolution of the Test-Film Quality Committee** was approved at the January 1954 meeting of the Board of Governors. This committee was established about three years ago to help improve quality control of test films sold by the Society, but the need for it has since disappeared. Its dissolution recognizes that Fred Whitney, Staff Test-Film Engineer, is ably executing the quality-control function.

The Board similarly approved **Dissolution of the Theater Engineering Committee**. Through the years specific aspects of its original functions were siphoned off into other more specialized committees such as Screen Brightness, Film-Projection Practice, and Sound, giving it finally an official field of interest limited to such items as theater carpets and air conditioning, valuable in themselves but covered adequately by those industries. The technical revolution in the motion-picture industry temporarily revived the committee, providing urgent need for a theater-screen survey that was launched in May 1953 and finished late in the year. With the conclusion of the survey (see the Report in the January 1954 *Journal*) it appeared reasonable and desirable to dissolve the committee.

The two committees on **Films for Television and Television Film Equipment** have now been combined into one, chaired by Gentry Veal and named simply Tele-

vision Committee. Its new scope, given below, is a combination of the two previous ones.

The close interrelationship between the work of the two committees together with the rather large overlapping of personnel provided a natural basis for this union. It is anticipated that this step will make for greater efficiency in committee activity and will speed the development of specifications for a color-television test film, the major project before the committee.

*Scope:* To make recommendations and prepare specifications on all phases of film equipment used in television broadcasting. Further, to make recommendations and prepare specifications on all phases of the production, processing and use of film made for testing of and transmission over a television system.

A comprehensive, definitive **Motion-Picture Nomenclature** has been a long sought but little realized goal. Some two years ago an Interim Committee on Nomenclature was formed (reported on p. 549 of the June 1952 *Journal*) in an attempt to further this work. A spirited effort was made but the immensity of the job was too much for any one committee and it too fell by the wayside. But the goal is still bright and a new effort is now being made to reach it in a series of short, discrete steps via a coordinated assignment of work to each of the engineering committees. In his letter to the chairman of each committee Mr. Jensen stated, "It has been decided to adopt a procedure similar to that followed in other technical societies; namely, to let each technical committee be responsible for the definition of terms covering its own field. As a first step in this work, it is felt that the technical committees should insure the existence of proper definitions for all technical terms used in already existing American Standards sponsored by the SMPTE." The responsibility for correlating this nomenclature activity has been assigned to the Standards Committee. The actual correlating function is to be handled by a Nomenclature Subcommittee headed by Calvin Hotchkiss.—Henry Kogel, Staff Engineer.