REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON PROGRESS

DURING the period since the last meeting of this Society, there has been progress along several lines of the motion picture industry. The condition of any line of activity is reflected, to a great extent, in the improvement in materials, methods and equipment entering into the product. If a comprehensive report of these improvements is made, it is a measure of the growth and development of the industry as a whole. The report presented is, we fear, more or less incomplete, and in this respect it fails as a true indicator of the scope of the work coming within the field of interest of the Society of Motion Picture Engineers.

Projectors:

Among the improvements in standard projectors may be mentioned the use of a pilot lamp or trimming lamp in the lamp house, controlled by a door-switch. When the door of the lamp house is closed, the pilot lamp is out, but as soon as the door is opened for replacing or adjusting carbons the lamp is lighted.

The window in the lamp house door for observing the arc, has been changed into a pin hole camera so that an image of the arc is shown on a piece of ground glass. The new device fits into the holder for the old style glass.

The operation of two machines in a projection room is being made much more convenient than heretofore by the addition of double control handles. These double handles permit the projectionist to control easily the machine at his right.

The spot is also shielded by a double shield which protects the eyes of the projectionist on either side of the machine.

An improved fire guard has been developed for the film gate, which limits the burning of film to a single frame when left in the beam of light.

One manufacturer has made an improvement in the intermittent movement by the use of sleeves or rollers on the pins engaging with the cam thus providing rolling friction in place of sliding friction. The rollers are held in place by a plate on the back of the cam.

A portable projector with a solid bakelite case in place of the usual leather-covered metal case, has been placed on the market. This provides a light weight, fire-resisting construction of good appearance.

Right Angle, Automatic Projection Arc.

With the idea in mind of increasing the general illuminating efficiency of the projection arc, a right angle, high intensity arc lamp has been perfected. This lamp employs a positive carbon rotated by a motor and a magnetic circuit which automatically feeds the

negative. The positive carbon lies horizontally along the optical axis and the negative electrode is so placed as to direct the light rays straight along this axis to the condensing lens.

An Automatic Arc Control.

A single motored projection arc control has made its appearance on the market. This control is marked by its absolute simplicity. It consists of a magnet connected across the arc terminals through a suitable resistance. The armature of the magnet coils is normally held away by an adjustable spring, the latter being adjusted after the proper arc setting has been determined upon. When the voltage across the coil increases the armature is attracted toward the magnet coil, and in so doing, completes the feed motor circuit. The motor, working through a gear ratio of about 800 to 1, feeds the carbons together until they reach a position where the voltage is insufficient to hold the armature against the spring tension. The latter, therefore, causes the armature to break the motor circuit.

Camera Motor.

A manufacturer of motion picture cameras has successfully designed a small compact motor for operating cinema cameras. To be successful, such a motor must be exceedingly accurate in balance so that there will be no vibration present. With this motor in use and operated from a storage battery, the cinematographer is able to give his entire time to the task of keeping his scene in its proper place in the frame.

Color Studies.

Although not technical in its methods of application, it is interesting to note that some of the larger producers of film have been brought to recognize the value of properly preparing the tones of scenes and sets in order that the correct color values and relations may be evidenced on the final black and white screen picture. Color experts are now brought into consultation when lavish sets are being prepared.

Fireproof Structures for Exchanges.

Through the efforts of the various Fire Protective Associations and the film manufacturer, special structures to house film exchanges have been erected or are being erected in the distributing centers of the industry. Many of the older Exchanges represented fire hazards of the worst type. The new buildings are fire-proof in every particular, and have been built to incorporate the ideas of those most experienced in the handling and storage of film.

A. R. DENNINGTON, *Chairman.*