

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

ANY doubts as to the success of the Society of Motion Picture Engineers has long since been dispelled. The period since the organization of our Society has been a trying one. Dark clouds have loomed on the horizon of our vision, but these have disappeared and our future now looks exceedingly bright. We have just completed our fourth year and we look optimistically to the future.

If you will permit me, I shall say a few words with reference to our membership. The Society began in the Fall of 1916 with approximately 25 members. Of this number, 18 are still on the roll and in good standing. Since then, our membership has increased until it now has a total of 78 members, notwithstanding quite a number of members have dropped out through resignation or other causes.

You, by your action at the Montreal meeting, authorized the formation of an Associate Membership classification. This is going to be a considerable help to the Society in furthering its important work. We must be judicious, however, in increasing our membership and see that only those fully entitled to membership are enrolled.

Closely related to the matter of membership is the question of attendance at our meetings. In order to be a useful member, you should regularly attend the meetings. A careful analysis shows that a little group of faithful members attend regularly, but the greater number attend only irregularly or not at all. We should aim to have a 100% attendance at each meeting. It is the endeavor to make the meetings as instructive and interesting as possible and to this end, your officials have been both active and solicitous.

I have frequently and consistently pointed out at previous meetings, the fact that the backbone of our Society should be and is, the result of the work of our Standing Committees. Some of our Committees have done commendable work, others have only worked half-heartedly, while others have merely reported progress. In an industry such as the motion picture industry, there are so many developments and changes, that without question, each Committee should have a full and detailed report, at least once a year. The Society will forge ahead only in proportion to the constructive activities of its various Committees.

The program for this meeting is certainly attractive. The Committee on Arrangements has been untiring in its efforts to make this the best meeting which we have ever held and I am sure that these efforts will be effective. Unquestionably, each of you will leave Dayton with the thought that Dayton is a most hospitable city, that we have had a splendid meeting and that it is not a small honor to be a member of the Society of Motion Picture Engineers.

At this time, I desire to express the appreciation of the Society to those who have made our success possible. This includes, espe-

cially, the officers who willingly served without any compensation whatever, as well as the members of the Committee on Papers and Committee on Publication. It is, by no means, an easy matter to formulate a program. The Committee on Papers has to keep continually after the authors on the matter of preparing papers and, further, it has to see that all promises given are kept. After the papers have been accepted and presented, there is considerable work by the Committee on Papers and Committee on Publication in collecting illustrations, having cuts made, reading of proofs, and arranging for the final printing. A careful analysis of the proceedings of our Montreal meeting, a book of 105 pages, should indicate to you, in a measure, the ground that these Committees have had to cover. Let us show our appreciation of their efforts. The members and others who prepare papers for our program should also receive our appreciation. The preparation of these papers is not a matter of days: it means the presentation of facts, gathered from a fund of data and experience, so grouped as to become easily understood.

Your Board of Governors has regularly met once and sometimes oftener between stated meetings, for the purpose of carrying on and planning the Society's business.

At this, the close of my administration as your President, I want to, personally, thank the officers and members of the Society for the loyal and unselfish support with which I have been encouraged and sustained. Each of you has contributed his part to any efficiency I may have displayed, and as to my short comings, I trust you may overlook them—except as they may serve as danger signals to my successor—recalling only those things in which I may have proved constructive and helpful in leadership.

As we have such an excellent program ahead of us for the next four days I will not burden you further. The meeting is now yours.

H. A. CAMPE, *President*.