

The Audio Engineering Society is Formed

L. GOODFRIEND*

NEW PROFESSIONAL societies are formed so rarely that when one is started everyone wants to know the how and why of its formation.

The Audio Engineering Society was organized at a meeting held in the RCA Victor recording studios in New York the evening of February 17. This meeting was the outcome of considerable discussion amongst leading men in the field, who had often asserted the need for a society devoted exclusively to this neglected profession, but had never followed through. C. J. LeBel began discussing the matter in the summer of 1947 and immediately found strong interest. In a short time a considerable number were interested enough to begin personal contacting. We can thank this group of busy men who somehow found time to help their profession, for the success of the operation.

The meeting, (scheduled at 8:00 P. M.), opened with a brief talk by the acting chairman, Mr. LeBel, audio consultant. He told of the inception of the idea for an audio engineers' organization and emphasized that it was not being spon-

sored by any commercial group or other engineering society, but rather by men well-known in the field. Norman C. Pickering then discussed the need for a professional organization to foster the growth of audio engineering. He cited the lack of exchange of knowledge caused by absence of a common meeting ground and of a medium for interchange of ideas in the audio field. The group immediately agreed that such an organization should be formed. A motion was carried to form the *Audio Engineering Society*.

The committee which has worked to organize the new society had anticipated an affirmative response in the formation of such a society, and it was announced that the first technical meeting will be held Thursday, March 11, at 7:30 P. M. Dr. Harry F. Olson of RCA Laboratories, will speak on *Problems of High-Fidelity Reproduction*.

The second Tuesday of each month was selected as the meeting date, registration cards were filled out, and other matters were discussed.

To continue operating, pending completion of a constitution, the members

asked the original executive committee, Messrs. J. D. Colvin, C. J. LeBel, C. G. McProud, N. C. Pickering, and C. A. Rackey, and the larger general committee to carry on the Society's business until elections are held. R. H. Schlegel was appointed acting treasurer.

Interest was aroused originally by personal contacts; a letter was published in one magazine and notices were sent to disc recordists, broadcast audio engineers, and others in audio fields, in the vicinity of New York. Response was immediate and widespread, letters were received from coast to coast. The reason for this is discussed at length in an accompanying article, but it can be briefly summarized by saying that audio engineering has been on the fringes of the fields of three existing societies without actually being the central interest of any one of them.

Those interested in joining the national organization or in forming local sections, should write the acting secretary of the new organization, Norman C. Pickering, Pickering and Company, Inc., Ocean-side, N. Y., and give the following information: Name, mailing address, company affiliation, and nature of work.

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