Third Annual Convention

THE END OF OCTOBER brings the annual Convention of the Audio Engineering Society, and with it, the "show of the year"—The Audio Fair. This year's list of exhibitors includes 81 separate names, although some are duplications because of two or more firms using the same facilities. Conservative estimates indicate that the probable attendance will be in the vicinity of 10,000—a reasonable increase over last year's 7500 visitors.

The program of technical sessions has been arranged with a view to making it possible for the visitor to take in all those papers in his particular field at a single session. The outstanding example of this grouping is the placement of all the papers in the "hobbyist" category on Saturday morning, on the assumption that engineers will be able to attend sessions on any of the three days, while those who are not professionaly engaged in the audio field may not be able to absent themselves from their regular employment as easily on weekdays but could readily attend the Saturday morning session.

Under the Chairmanship of Melvin C. Sprinkle, himself a hobbyist although employed in audio work professionally, this session brings several papers of interest to anyone who enjoys audio. Daniel J. Plach, of Jensen Manufacturing Company, is presenting a paper on "The Performance of Loudspeaker Enclosures." He is followed by Frank Robbins who will give a description of the new R-J speaker enclosure, mentioned last month by Canby as the mighty wonder of the year as far as loudspeaker mountings go. The unit is scarcely larger than the 15-inch cone speaker it contains, yet the bass response from the device will compare favorably with any enclosure heretofore exhibited.

Predicated on the idea that when one visits the home of a hobbyist, he can immediately spot a "hi-fi" system because of the cabinet monstrosity which often confronts him, Jeff Markell gives a few pointers on the design principles which should be followed to make a piece of furniture out of what is too often just a means for physically enclosing the various units of equipment and the speaker.

R. D. Darrell, chairman of the AES Committee on Test and Demonstration Records, offers a paper on the techniques of sound demonstration. In many instances the owner of a high-quality sound system is prone to exhibit his equipment on the basis of how loud it will play or how many highs it has. This is not always the best method of demonstration, according to Mr. Darrell, and a careful choice of musical material, loudness level, and frequency-response correction will give a more convincing demonstration than the hit-or-miss techniques usually followed.

Friday's Sessions

The session on Friday morning is devoted to industrial sound, with a strong slant toward the types of systems required for directing and warning large masses of people during emergencies. Currently this is one of the important commercial uses of sound equipment, and the four papers in this session are indicative of the work of three of the major companies in this field.

The recording session on Friday afternoon brings a variety of papers of primary interest to those working in this division of audio.

The two Thursday sessions are taken up with more general papers, those of the afternoon being more specifically in the field of instrumentation and the developmental aspects of audio. There is sufficient variety throughout the entire convention to provide everyone with some solid information in addition to the more easily assimilated data to be gained from a tour of the exhibit floors.

The Audio Fair Exhibits

The choice of a hotel for an exhibit of audio equipment has proved itself as the ideal arrangement. Although some of the exhibitors would prefer larger rooms, and although there is no denying that the exhibit floors are crowded from opening until closing, hotel rooms help to eliminate the pandemonium which would result from the display and demonstration of seventy or eighty separate sound systems in one large hall. Anyone who has attended an Audio Fair will testify that there is a lot of sound in the halls of Hotel New Yorker during the three days, but in comparison to what it would be with all of the exhibitors in a single

hall, there is no doubt that the hotel is a better pace for an audio exhibit than anyplace else.

Thus with these few words about the Convention and the Fair, we bid you come and see for yourself. The Society is on the upswing, with more members joining every month. To make it easy to file an application for membership, a complete application form is to be found on page 65. There are three grades of membership—member, requiring actual experience in the audio field; associate, requiring only an interest in audio; and student, requiring that the applicant be enrolled in a recognized institution of learning. There is no initiation fee, and it is only necessary that the first year's dues accompany the application form.

AES ANNUAL ELECTION

The annual election of the Society was held as of October 1, 1951, and the Tellers Committee, under the chairmanship of Alexander Fisher of Commercial Radio-Sound Corporation reported the following results: for President, C. G. McProud; for Executive Vice-President, F. Sumner Hall of Audio Equipment Sales, 153 W. 33rd St., New York; for Central Vice-President, Lloyd C. Wingard, of WGAR Broadcasting Company, Hotel Statler, Cleveland, Ohio; for Western Vice-President, Howard M. Tremaine, 946 N. Mariposa Ave., Hollywood, California; for Secretary, C. J. LeBel of Audio Instrument Co., 133 W. 14th St., New York; for treasurer, Ralph A. Schlegel, WOR Recording Studios, 1440 Broadway, New York.

Three Governors were elected this year: John D. Colvin, Commercial Radio-Sound Corporation, New York; Jerry B. Minter, Measurements Corporation, Boonton, N. J.; and W. Oliver Summerlin, Audio and Video Products Corp., 1650 Broadway, New York. Each of these Governors will fill a two-year term.

At the October 4 meeting of the Board of Governors, V. J. Liebler of Columbia Records, Inc., 799 Seventh Ave., New York, was chosen to fill the unexpired term of Howard A. Chinn, Columbia Broadcasting System, 485 Madison Ave., New York, who resigned because of the press of work.