



Former Acoustical Society President Edward C. Wentz, emeritus staff member of the Bell Telephone Laboratories, was chosen by the Society to receive its fourth Gold Medal award.



President Hale J. Sabine of the Acoustical Society of America.

Acoustical Society of America

THE Gold Medal of the Acoustical Society of America was presented on May 15 to Edward C. Wentz, emeritus staff member of the Bell Telephone Laboratories, during a banquet held in connection with the Society's spring meeting at the Chateau Laurier in Ottawa, Canada. The Medal, which is the highest honor conferred by the Society, is presented every two years for outstanding contributions to acoustics and service to the Acoustical Society. There have been but three previous recipients of the award: Wallace Waterfall, the first and only secretary of the Acoustical Society during its entire thirty-year history; Floyd Firestone, who was for many years the editor of the *Journal of the Acoustical Society of America*; and Harvey Fletcher, the Society's first president.

Dr. Wentz, a past president of the Acoustical Society (1942-43), is best known for his acoustical contributions to the motion picture art. These include the condenser microphone, a moving-coil horn-type loudspeaker, and a variable-density light valve for optical recording. In addition, Dr. Wentz has made contributions to the development of auditory perspective, the design of anechoic rooms, acoustic wall treatment,

auditorium design, high-quality magnetic tape recording, the automatically recording reverberation meter, transmission of pictures over telephone lines, electrodynamic loudspeakers, and a 100-element tone synthesizer. During World War II, his work led to the development of the first electrical gun director and air raid warning sirens.

THE following officers have been elected by the Acoustical Society to serve for the year 1959-60: president, Hale J. Sabine (Armour Research Foundation); president elect, Robert W. Young (US Navy Electronics Laboratory); vice president, Robert W. Leonard (University of California, Los Angeles); editor-in-chief, R. Bruce Lindsay (Brown University); secretary, Wallace Waterfall (335 East 45th Street, New York 17, N. Y.); treasurer, Herbert A. Erf (H. A. Erf Acoustical Company); and councilmen, J. C. R. Licklider (Bolt Beranek and Newman Inc.), Daniel W. Martin (Baldwin Piano Company), George A. Miller (Harvard University), Robert W. Morse (Brown University), Isadore Rudnick (UCLA), Ira Hirsh (Central Institute for the Deaf), and Martin Greenspan (National Bureau of Standards).