
Miscellany

Documentation

The availability of three new abstracting services for physicists and electronics engineers has been announced by Cambridge Communications Corporation, 238 Main Street, Cambridge 42, Mass. The first, *Solid State Abstracts*, is an expanded version of *Semiconductor Electronics*, an abstract journal covering more than 250 technical periodicals published throughout the world. It also covers US patents, conference papers, and new manufactured products. Subject and author indexes are included in each issue and annual cumulative subject and author indexes are also provided. The cost of Volume 1 (1960) is \$25. The second service, *Solid State Abstracts on Cards*, is priced at \$250 for the complete set of 3" x 5" index cards for Volume 1. Individual categories (metallurgy, physics, devices, circuits, and applications) may be purchased separately. Also available on cards are the abstracts of articles concerned with electronic computers; *Computer Abstracts on Cards*, Volume 1 (1959 and 1960) is priced at \$100.

Scientific articles and books issued in the USSR are now listed on a weekly basis in a new publication of the Office of Technical Services, Business and Defense Services Administration, US Department of Commerce, Washington 25, D. C. The new *OTS Current Review of the Soviet Technical Press* (Order No. 60-21441) has a subscription price of \$7 for six months (\$9 outside the US). It is intended that the time lapse between the appearance of an original article in a Soviet publication and its mention in the *Review* will be less than one month. While articles are not translated in their entirety, each review gives a citation to the original Russian publication, including page numbers. The reviews, it has been announced, are "prepared by an agency of the US Government for its own use and turned over to OTS for publication in the interest of American science and industry".

Films

Two new sound films have been produced for use in college science and engineering classes by Bell Telephone Laboratories. *Memory Devices*, a color film which shows information storage devices used in computing machine memories, covers basic concepts and terms, explains how binary information is stored, and describes examples of mechanical, electromechanical, magnetic, electrostatic, and photographic memories.

Similarities in Wave Behavior, a black and white film, is a demonstration lecture by J. N. Shive in which he discusses the similarities that exist in the behavior of waves in various mechanical, electrical, acoustical, and optical wave systems. Both films are loaned without charge through local Bell Telephone Company offices.

A 16-mm filmed lecture series entitled "Ballistic and Space Vehicle Systems" has been issued by the University of California at Los Angeles and is available for rental in its entirety for \$2500. The series consists of 21 lectures which are divided into 15 programs with a total running time of approximately 28 hours. Its purpose is to provide information basic to systems engineering for those concerned with research and development problems involving ballistic missiles and space vehicles. Produced by the University's Department of Engineering and Engineering Extension in cooperation with Space Technology Laboratories, Inc., the filmed series is accompanied by a complete set of lecture notes. Further information can be obtained from the Department of Visual Communication, UCLA Extension, University of California, Los Angeles 24, Calif.

The Physical Science Study Committee hopes to complete work on a series of more than forty 16-mm sound films (designed for integrated use with the PSSC text and laboratory work) within a short time so that the entire set will be available for classroom use in secondary schools during the coming academic year. The films, most of which are now available for distribution, are intended to help set the tone of the course and to serve as demonstration media in presenting material that could not ordinarily be treated in a high-school classroom. Some films are introductory, providing a quick picture of an area of study, and others develop a particular concept in detail through lecture and demonstration. Most are about twenty-five minutes in length. PSSC films can be purchased or rented in thirty cities through film libraries which serve as distribution outlets for Modern Learning Aids, a division of Modern Talking Picture Service Inc., 3 East 54th Street, New York, N. Y.

Programs and Facilities

Construction of the world's largest solar telescope is scheduled to begin this month at Kitt Peak National Observatory, located at the summit of a 6875-foot mountain on the Papago Indian reservation forty miles southwest of Tucson, Arizona. The instrument, which will form solar images as large as 34 inches in diameter, is expected to be ready for use in about two years. It will have a parabolic mirror 60 inches in diameter with a focal length of 300 feet, and will produce an image of the sun several times larger and more brightly illuminated than is possible with any existing ground-based solar telescope.

Formed as the national research center for optical astronomy, the Kitt Peak Observatory is supported by