

5. 28. 315

Standardization and the IEEE

STANDARDIZATION is an important activity of both the IRE and AIEE. It has both professional and commercial overtones, inasmuch as use of such standards for measurements, definitions and symbols may be required by both military and industrial contracts.

Within both societies, standards are proposed by technical committees. In both cases these committees are appointed by the president. Both have standards committees to approve proposed standards.

But here the similarity stops.

The AIEE standards committee reviews largely from an administrative point of view, while the IRE standards committee sometimes undertakes major revision during the review procedure.

Publication practices, too, differ for the two societies. The IRE publishes new standards in its Proceedings, and makes additional copies available at nominal cost. The AIEE publishes standards in pamphlet form, sells them to members for \$1.50, and to nonmembers for \$3.00.

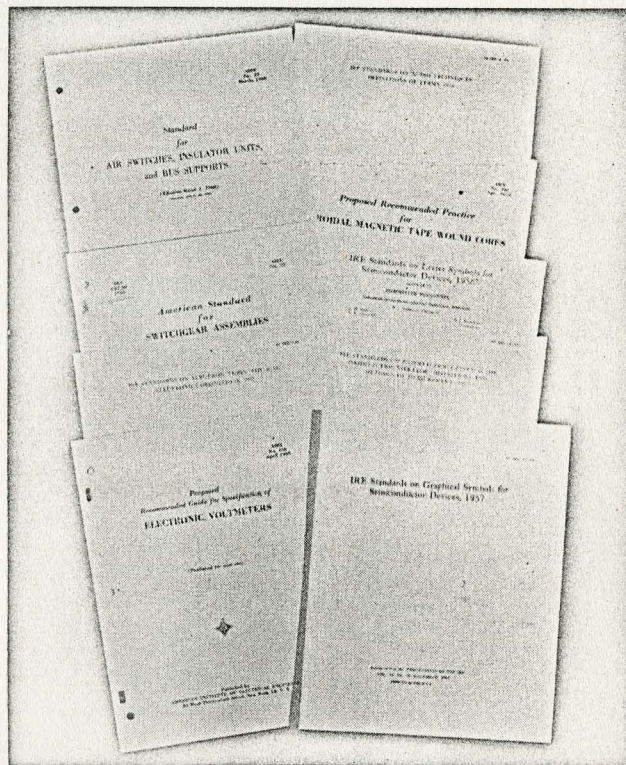
How will standards be handled in the IEEE? Several proposals were made during premerger discussions.

It has been suggested that a Standards Committee be constituted as one of the standing committees of the new society. This was not detailed in the merger agreement or in the draft constitution. The special 14-man implementation committee that will actually merge the two societies has broad powers, however.

We urge the committee to use these powers to quickly establish a Standards Committee.

It has also been suggested that the Standards Committee operate along the lines of the AIEE Standards Committee. The presently functioning Joint Standards Committee of the IRE and the AIEE sets such a pattern.

Some observers have voiced fears that there would be too little opportunity under such a setup for the high-level detailed work now done by the IRE Standards Committee, and that the quality of IEEE standards might suffer as a result. To counter these fears, it has been suggested that chairman of society technical committees be



named as liaison representatives to the Standards Committee, and participate in meetings of that Committee. This system is presently used by the JSC.

Coming In Our August 3 Issue

PRACTICALITY. Solid-state display panels are becoming more and more useful as designers press for improvements in resolution and contrast and simpler construction techniques. Next week, a trio of authors from General Telephone and Electronics Labs tell how they improved electroluminescent panels by using nonlinear resistors.

Another report next week gives details of a practical way developed at Bendix to stop transistor failures in magnetic deflection circuits. Also on tap: two articles from Japan, on how varactors may be used to eliminate distortion in klystrons and how to build practical tunnel-diode logic circuits, an English technique for pulse-length discriminators and a report on a new Sola Electric power supply.