G-E *Campus News*

LIGHT READING

It has won a prize, but you will not find it in the bookstore. The movie rights will not be sold; it will, alas, never be a best seller.

The title is: Non-Riemannian Dynamics of Rotating Electrical Machinery; the author: Gabriel Kron, University of Michigan, '24, G-E engineer. The award is the first prize of the George Montefiore Foundation of the University of Liege, Belgium—10,000 Belgian francs.

Tastes in literature differ; Gabriel Kron's preferences run to higher mathematics. Some years ago, he went on a walking tour around the world, and he took with him for light reading a book full of integral signs, tensors, matrix transformations, and elliptic functions. Instead of the usual souvenirs, he brought back the material for the paper that won him the Belgian prize. He also reports that the total cost of the trip was only $200! It suggests a tip for those who have trouble with padded hotel bills. Try carrying a calculus book on your travels!

SECOND SIGHT

The complete electric man is being built piecemeal. Electric eyes and ears came first, and loud-speakers with electric vocal cords. Now comes the machine with a memory and the gift of second sight. It has been developed by G-E research scientists to study the causes of failure of electronic tubes.

Something unusual happens in a tube. It is all over in a few hundredths of a second. Then, when peace has settled down, a camera shutter clicks and records on the film the story, not only of the disturbance and its aftermath, but of the events that led up to the disturbance.

Two modern devices make this possible: the cathode-ray oscillograph and the thyratron. The oscillograph is on the job, day and night, tracing on its fluorescent screen the history of the faithful operation of the tube. Then, unexpectedly, after months have elapsed, perhaps in the wee hours of the morning, the tube goes haywire. The disturbance sets off the thyratron tube which, in turn, trips the camera shutter, The disturbance has been over for a fiftieth of a second, but the trace still lingers on the oscillograph screen, and is photographed. No longer need the scientist hover anxiously over his apparatus. He can lie comfortably in his bed, knowing that the prerecording oscillograph will remember all that happened during the night and tell him about it in the morning.

CHINA CLIPPER

The Pan-American *China Clipper* which recently inaugurated trans-Pacific mail and passenger service in its epoch-making flight from California to the Philippines and back, carries several aids to flight which have been developed by General Electric especially for aviation service.

Each of the giant ship's four 830-hp Pratt & Whitney Twin Wasp engines is equipped with built-in G-E superchargers. Complete sets of G-E electric tachometers and electric oil-temperature gauges help the engineering officer at his post in the first compartment to check on the performance of the engines.

96-218DH

GENERAL ELECTRIC

STONEMAN PRESS, COLS., O