

BOOK REVIEWS

Technical Digest—Fundamentals of Sound Recording and Reproduction for Motion Pictures. *Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences*, Hollywood, Calif., loose leaf, 1930, 216 pp. Authoritative articles on sound motion pictures will be issued from time to time in the form of loose leaf additions to the *Technical Digest*. Most of the material thus far included is based upon lecture-demonstrations given before the School in Fundamentals of Sound Recording and Reproduction conducted by the Academy in 1929. It is obviously impossible to present a comprehensive review of a series of papers covering so many phases of sound motion picture theory and technic. Some of the foremost authorities in the field have contributed well illustrated articles on the history of sound recording, physical and physiological aspects of sound, acoustics, psychological factors affecting the illusion of sound pictures, photographic theory, and the optical technic peculiar to the various recording processes. C. M. T.

Scenario Writing. MARION NORRIS GLEASON. *Amer. Photographic Pub. Co.*, Boston, 1929, \$3.50, 308 pp. The purpose of this book is to show simply and clearly to the amateur cinematographer the construction of motion pictures considered as drama. In working up a finished production the scenario's importance is very greatly stressed, and various hints are given on choosing its plot. The entire field of childhood stories can be drawn from if children are to be the audience. If an organized group is producing the picture, they may often have country clubs, private yachts, fire departments, and universities at their command and hence an elaborate plot may be developed. All have at their disposal an unlimited amount of written story material of the world—fiction, history, and classics. Since the experimental field has only been touched much can now be done with color and sound. The amateur enthusiast can learn a great deal from this interesting book. It will be of great value to the club planning its first production since it shows the background behind the successfully made professional pictures. Twenty scenarios are given to be used as models and there are also sixteen illustrations from some amateur productions.—*Kodak Abstr. Bull.*