

BOOK REVIEW

Seeing—A Partnership of Lighting and Vision. M. LUCKIESH, Director, Lighting Research Laboratory, General Electric Co., Nela Park, Cleveland, AND FRANK K. MOSS, also of the Lighting Research Laboratory, Nela Park. *Williams & Wilkins Co.*, Baltimore, Md. 241 pp. 63 illustrations; also an illustrated supplement, "A Demonstration Visual Test." \$5.00. This book represents an attempt to strike a new note in the science of lighting and as such, goes beyond the usual work on illuminating engineering. While much data of the usual variety have necessarily been included, the aim is primarily to interpret their influence in determining the ability to see well. Consequently, such important factors as visual acuity, contrast, brightness adaptation, and glare are discussed in considerable detail in relation to the speed and accuracy of vision. There has been included much laboratory information along this line that is not available in the previous works on lighting, and which adds considerably to the value of the book.

Two very useful chapters deal with brightness and the speed of seeing. The former explains in a simple manner how brightness influences visual acuity in relation to threshold values and contrast, and the two chapters together cover the relation between these factors and the speed with which one can distinguish test objects. Another important chapter deals with the speed of adaptation and the necessity for proper transition lighting in passing from brilliantly illuminated places to darker ones, as from outdoors to interiors. Other subjects covered in some detail are glare and visibility, spectral character of light, and the nature and prevalence of subnormal vision. Enough data on the present standard practice in illuminating engineering have been included in the book to make it a comprehensive survey of the subject, and to make it useful to anyone concerned with practical applications. At the end there are a number of charts illustrating the relationships discussed previously. In the supplement there are over twenty charts and figures which, together with an explanation, comprise a visual test to be used as a practical demonstration of the value of better lighting. The book as a whole should prove valuable to anyone who is at all interested in the subject of "Seeing."

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