BOOK REVIEWS

Commercial Cinematography. G. H. SEWELL. *H. Greenwood & Co.*, London, 1933.

There has been a need for a book of this type which would give the industrial firms definite practical information concerning the making of 16-mm. pictures. As the author states, "The making of films consists of one part photography and nine parts picture making." Too often in his experience business firms have overemphasized the photographic aspect and have given too little thought to the idea of producing an interest-compelling picture. Equipment is described for taking, editing, and projecting 16-mm. and 9.5-mm. films. Data are included on stop-motion and cartoon work, and a brief concluding chapter deals with amateur sound films.

G. E. MATTHEWS

Amateur Talking Pictures and Recording. BERNARD BROWN. *Isaac Pitman & Sons*, London and New York, 1933. 225 pp. 91 figures.

The author states in his preface, "The ordinary gramaphone is out of date, radio is almost commonplace, and television is somewhat in the future. The home talking picture might well fill the gap." This terse statement describes clearly the reason for writing the book; and this little volume provides the amateur with an excellent summary of the available equipment for small-scale sound recording as well as working details for actually doing it. Sound-on-disk and sound-on-film methods are described. The book does not aim to include every type of amateur sound equipment available but is intended to cover those that differ essentially in fundamental design. The illustrations are well chosen, and the drawings assist materially in clarifying the text.

G. E. MATTHEWS

The Sound Motion Picture in Science Teaching. PHILLIP J. RULON. *Harvard Univ. Press*, Cambridge, Mass., 1933. 236 pp.

There has been considerable divergence of opinion relative to the value of motion pictures as a visual aid in educational work. In the introduction, the author states "...only a small percentage of the literature appearing during the last decade has concerned itself with experimental evidence on the effectiveness of such aids." There are so many easily overlooked factors that exert an important influence on the results of such work that the author feels that even in those cases where experimental investigation has been attempted, "...the motion picture as an instructional device is yet to be evaluated."

This book represents a report of "...an attempt to evaluate numerically the educational effectiveness of the sound motion picture in the teaching of a school subject." The ninth grade (first year high school) was used, and the subject chosen was General Science, particularly Physiography and Biology. A textbook was prepared that was designed to be typical of those in the fields of general science, and films were specially produced to parallel the text. Of two groups

of pupils, one used the text-book only; the other the text and films. A third group, serving as a second control group, did not study the experimental instructional material. The children were drawn from three suburbs of Boston. The school year was divided into three parts: (1) a pre-instructional period, (2) the experimental instructional period, and (3) a retention period when the regular general science work was taken up again. Tests were given at the end of each period.

The general conclusions of the results of the work were (1) the general pupil-achievement increase ascribable to the use of the film exceeded 20 per cent; (2) those facts and relations specifically dealt with in the film resulted in a 35 per cent increase in pupil achievement; and (3) neither of the gains mentioned under (1) and (2) were made "...at the expense of more important but less definable educational values, such as good habits of thinking."

The first half of the book reviews the details of the experiment, and the latter portion contains a bibliography, a census of occupational listings, scripts for experimental films, bulletins, teachers' guides, and data used in the tests.

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