

BOOK REVIEWS

Movie Making Made Easy. W. J. Shannon. *Moorfield & Shannon*, Nutley, N. J. 219 pp.

The preface of this handbook for the cine amateur states: "It has been estimated that there are some 300,000 home movie camera owners and 400,000 projector owners in this country alone. Serial numbers on equipment produced by leading manufacturers of cine equipment confirm this estimate." With these facts in mind, the author has attempted to compile into one book information that would interest not only this group but others contemplating joining it. The booklet is a compilation of tersely written chapters covering a very wide range of subject matter. In some cases it seems as though the brevity is too great even though this quality is most distinctly a virtue in any modern book. Some of the subjects treated are: The Home Theater, Amateur Movie Clubs, Making Up for the Camera, Photochemical Reactions, Reversal Process Explained, Aerial Photography, and Backyard Science with a Movie Camera. Practice and theory are somewhat mixed together in the text, and a more logical arrangement of subject matter might have been possible.

G. E. MATTHEWS

Filming with the Cine Kodak Eight (Filmen mit Cine Kodak Acht). A. Stuhler. *W. Knapp*, Halle, Germany.

This little book contains an excellent discussion of the working characteristics of this 8-mm. camera, including many interesting illustrations and self-explanatory diagrams. In addition to general directions for use, information is given on the following subjects: artificial illumination, the use of teleobjectives, titling, making a picture story, editing, and splicing.

G. E. MATTHEWS

Signals and Speech in Electrical Communication. J. Mills. *Harcourt, Brace & Co.*, New York, N. Y., 1934. 281 pp.

Without a diagram, an equation, a formula, or a chart, this book nevertheless portrays the discoveries, inventions, and principles that underly the many forms of communication of which the talking motion picture is but one.

"Twenty years ago a telegram was an event in the ordinary household, and the telephone was not the universal necessity it is today. Phonographs ground out a canned music all their own; motion pictures were silent, and there was no radio broadcasting. One couldn't telephone across America, much less across the Atlantic. There were no radios to ships at sea and airplanes in flight; no transmission of pictures by wire; and no prospect of television."

Intending his work for the interested but untechnical layman the author employs a number of unusually effective similes that tend to compensate for occasional obscurity resulting from inadequate editing.

H. G. TASKER