

## Book Reviews

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### Enlarging—Technique of the Positive, by C. I. Jacobson

Published (1948) by the Focal Press, Inc., 381 Fourth Ave., New York 16, N. Y. 307 pages + xx pages + 9-page index. 77 illustrations.  $5\frac{1}{4} \times 7\frac{1}{2}$  inches. Price, \$3.50.

The culmination of the photographer's work is the print. Involved in its preparation is a whole series of events including materials, techniques, and equipment. These are the negative, the printing media, the enlarger, the processing technique, and the aftertreatment. Involved also are psychophysical and physiological aspects such as perspective and other distortions, definition, and visual acuity. All of these topics are treated in a chatty manner which makes for easy reading. As with the companion volume (see the review on "Developing," by the same author, published in the July, 1948, issue of *THE JOURNAL*, page 105), the emphasis has been laid on description without the use of technical language, and without the presumption of a technical background. And yet an adequate panorama of the field is given.

The book will be valuable to all who desire to learn what is involved behind the scenes, when a camera record is converted into a final print. After a discussion of the negative material and its characteristics, as exemplified by the negative to be printed, it goes on to treat in detail the printing media upon which the negative is to be copied. The first quarter of the book is therefore concerned with the materials used. But equipment and techniques are also involved in the cycle of events. The discussion of these incidentals is the subject matter of the remainder of the book. One obtains a working knowledge of the intricacies of enlarging equipment, of the various printing techniques, of tone separation processes, montages, and other matters. All in all it is a darkroom man's elementary handbook on printing, and it will serve him as an excellent guide to help him solve old problems, or indicate to him new ones.

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### Camera and Lens, by Ansel Adams

Published (1948) by Morgan and Lester, 101 Park Ave., New York 17, N. Y. 117 pages + 3-page index + viii pages. 77 illustrations.  $6\frac{1}{4} \times 9\frac{1}{4}$  inches. Price, \$3.00.

This book is the first in a series of six volumes on basic photography to be written by Ansel Adams. It is intended to acquaint the aspiring still photographer with those fundamentals of camera operation which the author considers essential in creative photography. However, there are six short chapters pertaining to darkroom layout and construction, darkroom equipment, the finishing room, negative storage, print storage, and print-display devices, none of which has much relation to the camera and lens.

Mr. Adams is a photographer of repute. Some of his pictures rank among the best that have ever been produced, which attests his ability as a competent judge of aesthetic and photographic quality. It is unfortunate that he did not

choose to write a book in these fields, for he does not appear to be sufficiently versed in the technical aspects of photography to discuss them authentically.

For a beginner's book too many terms are used before they are defined, and in some instances the terms are nowhere properly defined. For example, on page 5 the term "parallax" is used without being defined, and not until page 15 is it stated that lens speed is expressed as  $f/8$ ,  $f/3.5$ , etc., although this designation is used freely on previous pages. And in the chapter beginning on page 88,  $f$  number is improperly defined.

Mr. Adam's discussion on composition is considerably better than one finds usually in the photographic literature.

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### Informational Film Year Book 1947

Published (1947) by the Albyn Press, 42 Frederick St., Edinburgh 2, Scotland. 174 pages. 25 illustrations.  $5\frac{1}{2} \times 8\frac{3}{4}$  inches. Price, 10s. 6d. net.

The rapid growth of the nontheatrical film in recent years is indicated clearly in several of the articles in this Film Year Book. Twelve short articles by well-known writers such as Paul Rotha, John Grierson, Andrew Buchanan, Forsythe Hardy, and Basil Wright comprise about one half of the book. Subjects discussed include documentary films, the conditions in nontheatrical film industry in America, the services rendered by the film in industry, the classroom film and films for children, and the use of films by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Summarizing the place of the non-theatrical film in the world today, Norman Wilson states, "It should be the aim of everyone who believes in democracy to make the freedom of the screen as much a reality as the freedom of the press."

The latter half of this interesting volume contains a "Buyers' Guide" on new substandard apparatus; a group of stills from documentary films of the year; a list of the informational films of the year; also lists of film-producing organizations, cine societies, studios, laboratories, libraries, manufacturers of cine apparatus, specialist cinemas, and film periodicals.

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