

## Book Reviews

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### **Sound and Documentary Film, by K. Cameron (Foreword by Cavalcanti)**

Published (1947) by Sir I. Pitman and Sons, Ltd., Pitman House, 39-41 Parker Street, Kingsway, London, W.C. 2, England. Also distributed by Pitman Publishing Corporation, 2 W. 45 St., New York, N. Y. 157 pages + XV pages + 3-page index. 77 illustrations and diagrams.  $5\frac{1}{2} \times 8\frac{1}{2}$  inches. Price, 15 shillings.

This little book of 157 pages represents an analysis of some of the problems that face the producer and the sound engineer when making a documentary film. While the primary emphasis is on British films, the discussion can be applied freely to films made in the United States. According to the author, "in the perfect sound film the actual sound should be so perfectly wedded with the picture that the illusion of reality is complete." Documentary films, as we know them today, are about twenty years old. Two general classes of documentary films are described: (1) the straightforward description of an incident with a simple commentary, music, and sound effects, and (2) an imaginative, human exposition of how ordinary people live and work. The latter type is more difficult to make well, and is represented by such films as "Target for Tonight" and "Listen to Britain." The book describes the planning of a documentary or "realist" film, the problems facing the sound crew, the use of music and sound effects, post-synchronizing and dubbing, re-recording, and finally showing the film. The last 50 pages are devoted to brief technical abstracts of some of the processes involved in recording sound, and to a glossary of technical terms.

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### **Discharge Lamps, by H. K. Bourne**

Published (1948) by Chapman and Hall, Ltd., 37 Essex St., W.C. 2, London, England. 417 pages + 7 pages + XV pages. 186 figures.  $5\frac{3}{4} \times 8\frac{3}{4}$  inches. Price, \$12.00. Book available from American Photographic Publishing Co., 353 Newbury St., Boston 15, Mass.

The reader who is primarily interested in the characteristics of light sources will find this book a convenient reference. As the title indicates, the author is principally concerned with discharge sources, but he also describes in considerable detail the characteristics of tungsten-filament lamps, carbon arcs, and photoflash lamps. One may assume that data on these types are included in order better to establish the effectiveness of discharge sources for many photographic and certain projection applications.

While discharge lamps may be constructed employing any of several gases, it is appropriate that lamps employing mercury vapor should be the principal theme of this book. The relatively high efficiency of such sources, particularly in terms