# Book Reviews

## 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. $5^1/_2 \times 8^1/_2$ 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. $5^3/_4 \times 8^3/_4$ 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

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of their effect on photographic materials, has established their pre-eminent position among discharge lamps. Their increasing usefulness is further indicated by the wide range of design possible with various combinations of operating pressure and electrical loading, as well as by modification of spectral quality through the use of fluorescent material on the surrounding envelope of the low-pressure arc, or the introduction of additional metallic vapors in those of higher pressure.

Only the last chapter of the book is devoted to applications of the sources, a treatment which might have been considerably expanded with great advantage to such groups as are represented by the readers of this JOURNAL.

The author is to be complimented for including an excellent index as well as an Appendix of valuable supplementary information.

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## Standards Recommendation

On December 16, 1948, the Standards Committee recommended reapproval of the American Standard for cutting and perforating 35-mm negative raw stock, Z22.34-1944.

Reapproval or revision of this standard has been under consideration since October, 1946, when review of all the existing Z22 standards was undertaken by the ASA Sectional Committee, Z22. The long delay in determining what action should be taken was caused by the difference which exists between the 35-mm negative and positive perforations. This difference has caused considerable trouble in connection with printing 35-mm color release prints where extremely accurate registration is necessary. Consequently, the whole matter of 35-mm perforating was reinvestigated with the thought that perhaps a universal positive-negative perforation could be agreed upon. Such a perforation based upon the original proposal by Dubray and Howell is now in the process of development and a proposed standard will be published in the JOURNAL in the near future.

The use of the negative perforation, however, has become so firmly established in the industry that elimination as a standard at this time does not seem possible. Therefore, the foregoing recommendation that it be reaffirmed as an American Standard has been made. Technically, the draft which is now being submitted to Sectional Committee Z22 is identical with the 1944 edition. The method of dimensioning, however, has been modified so as to be in accord with present industrial practice.

## Journal Exchange

Mr. G. D. Murphy wishes to dispose of a complete set of JOURNALS of the SMPE starting with the October, 1930, issue. Persons interested in purchasing these copies should write to him at R.F.D. 2, Rockville, Md.