

Biological Photographic Association

In 1931 a group of some thirty medical photographers met in New Haven to exchange ideas about their work. As a profession, theirs was one of photography's youngest, but these delegates had worked in it sufficiently to believe in its importance. They were also discovering that medicine's needs for new types of illustrations could not be filled by workers who remained each in his own darkroom, unaware of the experiences of others.

Medical advances were posing such problems as (to mention some in the motion picture field alone): records of surgical procedures made under aseptic conditions; films showing the movements of internal organs such as the vocal cords, the eardrum, the stomach; cinemicrographs of minute organisms; lapse-time photography of growth, as in the development of bacterial colonies; high-speed records of reflex motions; serial photographs of the fluorescent screen, etc. Much of this work entailed the use of precision instruments; all of it called for careful experimentation. Obviously, a clearinghouse was needed for the exchange of information.

Because medical photography is so closely allied with clinical and research medicine, the delegates decided that their organization should be formed as a scientific rather than a trade society. Its aim should be the advancement of photography through the free exchange of ideas. Membership is open to any individual, professional or amateur, who applies photography to the study or teaching of science. Since there is an interrelation of problems over a wide field, the society's scope has not been limited to medicine alone. The organization was named the Biological Photographic Association, the term "biological" covering all branches of science concerned with living forms.

In its subsequent years of growth, the BPA has developed in accordance with these charter plans. It is an incorporated, nonprofit organization, whose members are scientists, teachers, designers of precision equipment, naturalists, and, of course, a growing core

of biological photographers. Chapters have been formed in Boston, Mass.; New York, N.Y.; Philippi, W.Va.; Cleveland, Ohio; Chicago, Ill.; and Los Angeles, Calif. Foreign members are eligible and are increasing in number.

The Journal of the Biological Photographic Association is at present in its eighteenth volume. It is the only journal which concentrates on the now well-established field of biological photography. Published quarterly, it comprises a volume of about 200 pp., describing the technics required in all phases of still and motion picture photography and photomicrography. General questions such as the planning of departments, the filing and projection of pictures, the preparation of exhibits, etc., are also discussed. Most back numbers are available from the Editor. Microfilm or photoprint copies of individual articles may be ordered through the Secretary.

Each September, the Association meets in a city chosen by the members. These annual sessions, through a varied program of demonstrations, round tables and original papers, offer the beginner an introduction to the field and the advanced worker a review of new developments. Important features are the Technical Exhibit for the display of equipment, and the Salon.

It is important for the biological photographer to know what is currently available, not only for his own sake, but because he may have to give advice on the purchase of photographic equipment to staff members of his medical school, hospital or research center. The Annual Salon of prints, transparencies and motion pictures offers a cross section of the best work being produced in biological photography. Awards are given for entries of outstanding merit. For work of consistent excellence over a period of years, or for valuable contributions to the field, the Association has since 1946 conferred the title of Fellow of the Biological Photographic Association on members approved for advanced rat-

ing by the Board. Other important awards are: for the outstanding biological photographer of the year; for the best paper presented at the meeting; and for the best article in each volume of the *Journal*.

Annual dues are \$5.00 including *Journal* subscription. Correspondence about membership should be addressed

to the Secretary, Lloyd Varden, Pavelle Color Inc., 533 W. 57th St., New York 19. Correspondence about manuscripts or nonmember subscription to the *Journal* should be sent to the Editor, Louis P. Flory, Boyce Thompson Institute for Plant Research, Yonkers 3, N.Y.

Microfilm copies of the *JOURNAL* are now available from University Microfilms, 313 N. First St., Ann Arbor, Mich. The *JOURNAL* will be available on microfilm only in a complete year, that is, the two 1950 volumes will be available sometime after the December 1950 issue is published. Microfilm copies will be made available only to those who have subscribed to the paper edition.

By using microfilm, the library may keep the printed issues unbound and let them circulate for the two or three years of greatest use. The microfilm is supplied on metal reels, carefully labeled, and is, of course, designed to supplant the bulky bound volumes which crowd the space of libraries. Microfilm editions cost about the same as binding a volume.

Films in Review is a new magazine now nearing completion of its first year of publication by the National Board of Review of Motion Pictures, Inc., 31 Union Square West, New York 3. Its editor writes that he will welcome contributions by all who have ideas which they would like to bring to a lay audience which is interested in the general aspects and quality of motion picture production as well as the aesthetic, economic, censorship and international phases of the art and industry. Illustrative material can be used, and 1500 words is the most desirable length of article.

Current Literature

THE EDITORS present for convenient reference a list of articles dealing with subjects cognate to motion picture engineering published in a number of selected journals. Photostatic or microfilm copies of articles in magazines that are available may be obtained from The Library of Congress, Washington, D.C., or from the New York Public Library, New York, N.Y., at prevailing rates.

American Cinematographer

vol. 31, no. 9, Sept. 1950
New "All-Direction" Baby Camera-Dolly (p. 307) L. GARMES
Shooting 16-Mm Color for Blow-up to 35-Mm (p. 308) C. LORING
New Three-Color Meter for Evaluating Illuminant Quality (p. 310) L. MOEN

Audio Engineering

vol. 34, no. 8, Aug. 1950
Transient Testing of Loudspeakers (p. 9) M. S. CORRINGTON
Imagery for Describing Reproduced Sound (p. 14) V. SALMON

Electronics

vol. 23, no. 9, Sept. 1950
Frequency-Interlace Color Television (p. 70) R. B. DOME

Ideal Kinema

vol. 15, Oct. 6, 1949
Kinema Technique and Equipment in Holland (p. 17) R. H. CRICKS
RCA Discloses Its Colour-Television Method (p. 25)

vol. 16, Feb. 9, 1950
Post-War Improvement in Projector Design (p. 19) R. H. CRICKS