

Photography—

# ART or SCIENCE?

**KODAK** takes care of the *scientific* side for you. Technical, research and manufacturing resources without rival enable Kodak to put a comprehensive range of perfected equipment and sensitive materials at your service.

**YOU** give *artistry* fullest play by utilizing the best that science can provide. That is, by specifying Kodak from start to finish—Cameras, Films, Plates, Chemicals, Papers, Darkroom Equipment.

## KODAK

*Foremost in Photography*

KODAK LTD., KODAK HOUSE, KINGSWAY, LONDON, W.C.2



## THE LITTLE MAN

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE  
UNITED PHOTOGRAPHIC POSTFOLIOS  
OF GREAT BRITAIN

(Affiliated to the Royal Photographic Society,  
Central Association Photographic Societies)

Edited by George H. Farnsworth  
Redland Villa, Industrial Road, Matlock, Derbyshire.

No. 21.

MAY, 1947.



"Wild Cherry"

W. LEE THOMAS, A.R.P.S.

## \*LEARN FROM THE MASTERS



*The Haywain, by Constable.  
(A line simplification based on the original painting in the National Gallery.)*

### \* LANDSCAPE

The landscape is cut broadly into three principal planes: foreground, middle distance, and distance. These are further emphasised by variations in tone, the dark mass of trees contrasting strongly with the lighter effect of foreground and distance. The long edge of water-line and the movement of the haywain lead the eye smoothly into the picture. Shade and high relief are given by the sun shining diagonally from the front.

### POINTS FOR PHOTOGRAPHERS

Compose your landscapes in three simple planes, as in this picture. Choose a foreground which includes a figure or some familiar object, thus enabling the eye to judge comparative size and distance. Arrange your viewpoint with sun shining obliquely towards camera. Straight lines (such as hedges) are a necessary foil to the irregular shapes of trees.



ILFORD LIMITED • ILFORD • LONDON

### THE LITTLE MAN SPEAKS.

'Tis our wish this issue might reflect the present hopeful feelings of you all. Rather than dwell on the arduous times we have all experienced, or on too distant promises, we prefer to lay emphasis on the good things of the immediate future.

Hence we publish with genuine pleasure advance notices of the organised activities of the Club during the coming months. Most of you need no persuading when it comes to taking part in these happy events, but if there are still any who are doubtful, or feeling a wee bit shy, let them rest assured they are bound to enjoy every minute of any gathering they can attend. Everyone in this Club looks forward to meeting YOU, so please give yourself a treat.

With a feeling of Spring in the air we have chosen our cover picture as typifying the spirit of our current issue. The centre are pages carry a reproduction of Mr. Kershaw's fine print that has been purchased for the Tyng Collection, and we feel our fellow members will wish to join in congratulating Mr. Kershaw on his deservedly fine success with a grand picture. Following the reproduction in our last issue of a print by our Hon. General Secretary we have been persuaded to reproduce prints by our President and the Editor to prove that we also do a little photography in spite of our other activities. The other reproduction this time is one of the acceptances at the Exhibition of The Photographic Society of Ireland when Mr. Coonan's Circle did so well, as reported in Circle News.

"Photography as I see it" is contributed by that genial and popular photographer of the Southampton Club, Mr. W. R. Kay, F.R.P.S. He has succeeded admirably in putting into words just how most of we Amateurs "see" photography, with its occasional spells of the doldrums, but also with its high spots and that fascination which retains our interest year by year. Few of our readers will have been interested for so long as Mr. Kay, but in thanking him for his article we also assure him that many of us have hopes of one day experiencing that pleasure.

We record our appreciation of the response by both Members and Secretaries to our appeal for contributions. This has been so good that a few items have had to be left for publication in our next issue. Please maintain this support for your magazine, and will Secretaries see to it that the activities of their Circles are sent in with regularity.

Your obedient servant,

*The Little Man*

## PHOTOGRAPHY AS I SEE IT.

By W. R. KAY, F.R.P.S.

Photography, today, is such an enormous subject that it can only be viewed in a few of its aspects by any one person and so I have grounds for presuming to say that I see it as a hobby or pastime, to be followed strenuously when the mood demands or to be dropped when interest flags. The strength and variety of its appeal are such, however, that interest should seldom flag, and, in my own case, this has been so throughout the fifty years that I have been associated with the Art, or Science, or whatever else my readers wish to call it. Are we artists, or Scientists, or merely Mechanics, working our apparatus and materials on stereotyped lines, and, whatever the answer, does it matter? No work that I, or anyone else, can do will be a whit the better by calling it Art, and anyone can call my results just what he likes—so long as he uses no words forbidden in polite society. Many years ago I entered a landscape called "The tree that grew by itself" in our local exhibition. All my fellow members, unanimously, called it a—— (never mind, it was a very rude word), but Mr. Horsley Hinton gave it the first award in its class. Now the judge did not call it Art, but he evidently agreed with me that it was a good photograph, which appeared to be all that mattered.

Photography has advantages over many other pastimes, one of which is that it does not suffer from a close season, and Summer or Winter, Spring or Autumn, there is always plenty of work that can be taken on. Another advantage is that its pursuit does not depend on the number in the team which can consist of one, two, several, or a crowd. I am a great believer in the Camera Club (or Photographic Society) but I believe that it is a fact that very little good photography is ever done on collective outings, however great their value may be in other directions. The ideal team, for outdoor work at any rate, consist of two members—one with the real artistic flair to find the pictures, the other a hefty fellow to carry the necessary equipment! From the last remark it will be clear that I am not a miniaturist and I still have great affection for a camera of half-plate size, although I confess that it is years since I had the courage to carry one. I was recently asked to define the difference between a photographer and a snapshotter and my reply was that the latter term applied to those who used cameras of smaller size than half-plate!

Photographers have never been marshalled into two camps, the professional and the amateur, as in all, or nearly all, other pastimes. If it were otherwise what a mess there would be. The little Chemist at the corner shop, who sells films and paper (when he can get them) would be debarred from showing his work along with that of the amateur members of his Camera Club and I, as an amateur, would not be

able to accept fat fees for writing articles such as this! I know that many professionals despise amateur efforts, but amateurs, in their turn, should pity the poor professional who, when he doesn't want to work at all, may have to turn to and photograph somebody's ugly duckling, and has to make a good job of it or risk starvation. A professional friend once showed me a photograph of row upon row of bottles of lubricating oil which he had been commissioned to take. He had made a very fine job of it but try to imagine his joy if he had been able to select, and arrange, his subject matter. Think of the possibilities of a pattern of verticals and circles from a suitable combination of Champagne and Port bottles, presuming, of course, that the required cellar still exists.

An aspect of photography which really should be looked into and finally settled is this interminable argument between the so-called purist and the much maligned "faker." There is much to be said on both sides but I fear that each worker sets his own standard of what is permissible and becomes a Molotov in argument based, often, alas, on what he can or cannot do himself. A very prominent exhibitor said, only a few weeks ago, that it was permissible to knife out unwanted details, or to build up an unsatisfactory background, while apparently suggesting that it was improper to print in a sky that was not on the original negative. What, after all, is sky but background or "backcloth" to the picture scheme? Can it be good photographic procedure to perform minor surgical operations, or to do painting and decorating on a print and non-photographic to employ two, or more, negatives to form one image, *by light*, on sensitive material? I predict that this problem will never be solved satisfactorily until it is agreed that anything is permissible that cannot be seen to have been done by non-photographic means. Some people try to establish themselves as "Artists" by invariably printing in clouds on the assumption that nature's contribution never composes satisfactorily, or that there cannot be sky without clouds and, while this may be permissible, it seems to be silly. It would be all very well if we could tell our sensitive material what to record, and what to reject, but neither "I" nor "K" can yet give us such material so some human assistance appears to be necessary.

I do not expect anyone to agree with everything I have written, in fact I should be grieved if they did, but, on the other hand, I hope no one will argue with me as I am entirely recalcitrant. The ideal is to go your own way, leaving me to go mine, for thus, and thus only, shall we get full enjoyment out of our glorious pastime and, adapting the words of Kipling to suit our ends:

" . . . each for the joy of working, and each, in his separate star,  
Shall TAKE the Thing as he sees It for the God of Things  
as They Are."



### NEWS ITEMS.

At a recent meeting of Council the President read a letter he had received that was signed by all the members of Circle 6. The letter was sent on the occasion of this Circle's 100th Folio, and expressed the appreciation of all members for the valuable work done on their behalf by all Officers of the Club. The members of Council requested that their sincere thanks for this kindly gesture be accorded to the Secretary and members of Circle 6 through the medium of this magazine, and as one who started the Circle, 100 Folios ago, it gives your Editor particular pleasure to associate himself with this expression of thanks.

We congratulate two of our Club members who have had the honour of giving Lectures recently at the "Royal." It was a rather remarkable co-incidence that the lectures were given on successive nights. On Tuesday, March 18th, Dr. R. G. W. Ollerenshaw, B.M., A.R.P.S., gave a lecture to the Medical Group on the "Production of the Surgical Teaching Film." Whilst this was beyond the ken of we mere ordinary folk, we gathered that it was considered of excellent merit by the Medical Photographers and it was even whispered that it would go a good way towards the Fellowship status of the R.P.S. To Robert, as he is known by all fellow members of Circle 11, we extend our sincere congratulations.

On Wednesday, March 19th, our Club President gave a lecture to the Pictorial Group of the R.P.S. on "Print Criticism and Analysis." We, who know how expert Leigh is on this subject, can very easily imagine that this lecture would prove a real treat to those privileged to hear it. The excellence of the lecture is best shown by the fact that Leigh received a very good reception, and was congratulated by Mr. Dudley Johnston, Hon. F.R.P.S., who was the Chairman for the occasion.

As we go to press we learn from the General Secretary that the Club entry for the C.A. Exhibition has been well supported. It will give us great pleasure indeed if we are fortunate this year in securing the Switch Shield, but irrespective of any success that may, or may not, come our way, it is satisfactory to feel that the Club members have given us a good show with their entries.

We have received a very interesting letter from America. Mr. John R. Hogan, F.P.S.A., who is the Chairman of the Pictorial Division of the P.S.A. writes to congratulate the Club on the excellence of our Magazine, and informs us that the Pictorial Division has now taken over the running of Postal Portfolios in America. The idea was apparently

started in America a little over three years ago by Mr. Cecil Blay, A.R.P.S., A.P.S.A., was then taken up by the Chicago Chapter of the P.S.A. and then developed by Mr. E. R. Christhif of Illinois. At the present time there are 26 Circles in being, and Mr. Hogan informs us that it is the intention of the Pictorial Division of the P.S.A. to push the Postal Portfolios in a big way throughout America by 1948. Mr. Cecil Blay has been appointed to the Pictorial Committee of the P.S.A. as their representative in this country, and it is hoped that ere long it will be possible to have a wide interchange of Folios between the two Countries. We extend our good wishes to our American friends, and can assure them they will be doing a great service to all isolated Photographers in their vast Continent by enabling them to obtain greater pleasure from the finest hobby in the world. Good luck and good shooting to you.

We have received a brochure of the photographic products made by the Birmingham Engineering Company Ltd., of 63, Pershore Street, Birmingham, 5. These include a robust and reasonably priced enlarger, lighting equipment, dishes, etc., and any of our readers interested should write to the Firm for further particulars of all their products with the Trade Name of Becoval.

Congratulations to Master Derek Herdson on his recent success in securing the first prize in the national colouring competition held by the publication "Mickey Mouse." The prize will be presented at a luncheon arranged by R.K.O. Radio Pictures, and we can readily imagine the pride of our President when he has the opportunity of taking part in this function. Those of us who know Derek can repeat what we have so often said before "Like Father, Like Son," and look forward to reporting on further successes in the future.

\* \* \*

### Acorn and Oak.

"I should be lacking were I not to let you know of the great joy that I am deriving from my association with the U.P.P., and its bunch of grand members. It would indeed, be a poor Secretary who did not respond to the enthusiasm he finds around him. May I say that I feel this enthusiasm starts right at the top. Might I echo the President's new year message and say, 'May we journey on together in happy fellowship.' Believe me, I am already looking forward to that fine 'break' on the journey, the next A.G.M."

LOUIS DANNINGER, HON. SEC. 15.

### RALLY NEWS.

MAY 24th, 25th, 26th. WHITSUN WEEKEND. SOUTH WALES RALLY. Preparations for this Rally are now well forward, and with such an excellent Committee in charge, plus the experience of a previous successful event last year, there seems no doubt that this year the South Wales Rally is an event that everyone who can possibly attend will mark as a red letter day in their association with the Club and its first-rate social gatherings. The organisers are prepared for the biggest attendance ever. We look forward to reporting the success of this event in a future issue, and meanwhile content ourselves by warning you not to miss this Rally, to write that note about accommodation right now, and so help both yourself and the organisers.

LEICESTER RALLY.—Circle 22 are also organising a Rally at Whitsuntide. It is to be held at Leicester and we congratulate the enterprise shown by the members of this Circle in arranging a get together of this kind. We who have a long experience of these events know their grand value in getting folks acquainted personally, and 'tis surprising how often one finds that the fellow who makes such abominable criticisms on our prints is really quite a good sort. We extend to the Secretary and Members of Circle 22 every good wish for a happy and successful event.

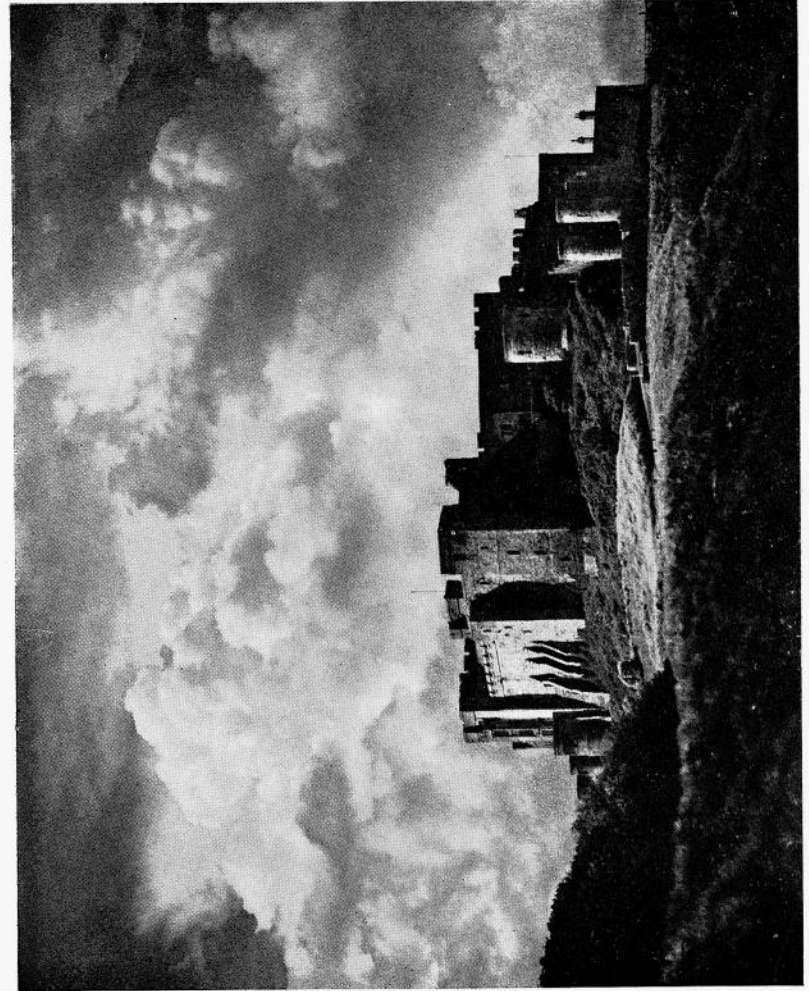
\* \*

MAY RALLY, LONDON, MAY 10th and 11th, 1947.

This event requires no introduction to most of our members, but for those who have joined recently we mention that this Rally is run in connection with the C.A. Exhibition. On the Saturday we meet at the Royal Photographic Society in the morning to look round the Exhibition, and in the afternoon the winning slides are projected to the accompaniment of a running commentary by three eminent photographers with our President as compere. Saturday evening and Sunday are given to organised rambles, and this year it is hoped to visit the Zoo again on the Sunday.

\* \* \*

“Thanks very much for sending me a copy of THE LITTLE MAN. I like it immensely.—C. LACEY.”



L. KERSHAW, A.R.P.S.

“Bamburgh Castle”



"Land of Smiles"

R. C. LEIGHTON HERDSON, A.R.P.S.



"Wee Cottage"

G. H. FARNSWORTH



### LIBRARY NEWS.

The following Lecturettes have just been added to the Library : "Spotting, finishing and presenting the Print" by A. J. Scrivener ; "Portrait Lighting" by F. G. Mirfield.

Both the above lecturettes are excellent in every way. They are very well presented and really practical. The former should be read by everyone who wishes to acquire the art of removing those blemishes that too often mar the work of even advanced workers. By means of practical illustrations, and a very well written description of the basic methods used, this Lecturette is just what any worker who isn't satisfied with his finishing has been looking for. The one on Portrait Lighting is also very good, and is presented entirely on single weight bromide. It is made up of brief but pointed descriptions of the basic principles of lighting used by Mr. Mirfield. This lecturette is also illustrated and will provide an excellent guide to those who are groping for the best type of lighting for studio portraiture.—*Editor*.

Mr. E. H. Ware of High Beech, Woodbury, nr. Exeter, in addition to being a member of the Club, is also an ardent bird-watcher. He has compiled a book which he appropriately titles "Wings to Wings." It was built up during his service with the R.A.F. and he is prepared to loan it to any of our members who would care to borrow it, mentioning that it would be of particular interest to anyone interested in birds. Application should be made direct to Mr. Ware enclosing return postage.

\* \* \*

### THE EXHIBITION

By G. A. TOOTELL, CIRCLE 21.

The Judges have selected prints  
In black and white, or sepia tints.  
They weigh each portrait, study, scene,  
And talk of thirds and golden mean.  
Then after hours of argument  
To entrants catalogues are sent,  
The Judges have approved the few,  
The Exhibition's now on view.

The people wander through the halls  
And gaze in doubt upon the walls  
Where hung aloft in serried ranks  
Is work beloved by the cranks.  
"Commended Highly", why? none knows,  
Is written large beneath some rows,  
And folk decide upon one fact—  
The Judges must be slightly cracked.



"Breaking Storm"

J. J. COONAN

### CIRCLE NEWS.

CIRCLE 2.—We hear that this Circle is going along fine and in the words of its excellent Secretary, "We have a fine matey gang and the work is tip-top."

CIRCLE 8.—Congratulations to this Circle and particularly to one of its members, Mr. L. Kershaw, A.R.P.S., whose print "Bamburgh Castle," has had the distinction of being purchased by the Trustees of the Tyng Foundation for inclusion in the Tyng Collection. We understand that this is a case of true patience being rewarded, as to get the final result Mr. Kershaw spent nearly a fortnight in daily visits to the scene. A pointer indeed to many of us who are too prone to press the trigger and hope for the best.

CIRCLE 9.—A lively note-book and 100 per cent. entries keeps this one of the really go-ahead Circles. With all the discussion that arose over voting methods recently, the worthy Secretary of this Circle suggests that the following method used in Circle 9, after trying various other methods, might commend itself to other Circles. Each member has a number that is marked on the back of his entry. When voting, these numbers are used, and placed on the top line of the voting card for three points, the second line for two points, and the third line for one point. By using numbers there is plenty of space for recording quite a list of placings on the voting card. It is contended that this system has many advantages over the simple one, two, three method, chief of which are that it means scarcely any extra trouble to either the Secretary or the Member, and it provides a means of bringing the "rabbits" of the Circle into the voting list more often thus giving them a better idea of their progress, and also overcomes that occasional difficulty when prints of equal merit occur. This Circle retains the method of prints being sent to the Circle Sec. In order to overcome any shortage of entries in the voting round a fourth folder is now sent round to collect prints from any who have forgotten to send their entry to the Sec., and this is ensuring 100 per cent. entries. With the return of some old members from the Forces and an influx of new blood replacing the few inevitable resignations, this Circle is in very good shape.

CIRCLE 11.—This crowd of keen workers continues to turn out a high standard of entries and note-book contributions each month. Some there are who hint at resigning because the standard set is very hard to maintain, but these hints do not actually result in anyone resigning at all. With a tactful lead from the Skipper, everybody combines to make any would-be laggard realise just how much real benefit he has already received from the Circle, and the inevitable result is that not only do the hints about resignation fade out,

but one finds a renewed impetus in the standard of the work by the very ones who had been lagging behind. Incidentally this Circle has many Circle Secretaries amongst its members, and has done a great service to the Club by providing just that right type of background for Circle Secretaries.

CIRCLE 20.—A portfolio of prints from this Circle was displayed at the Wellingborough Camera Club recently and the members of the Wellingborough Club were very favourably impressed at the high standard of the work shown. This Circle is also trying out a system of secret voting in which members assess the value of all prints out of a maximum of ten marks.

CIRCLE 22.—This Circle has just concluded a rather unusual kind of competition. It started through one member entering a print of three small vases that created a good deal of comment. As a result the actual vases were sent round to those members willing to enter a print of their own and the Circle Secretary received nine very good prints that were submitted to an independent adjudicator. Three of these were considered of equal merit, but eventually the placings were :—First, A. Gays ; Second, S. Town ; Third, A. Bagshaw. The competition has proved so popular that a further collection of knick-knacks is being circulated for a similar one. Popular and regular features of this go-ahead Circle are entitled "Diversion" and "What would you do chum?" The former is the sending of a sealed criticism to the Secretary by each member of a selected print, and the latter is a section devoted to "Problem prints and negatives." It is concerned with the negative or print that just seems to be a near miss. Already a few wasters have been saved on advice given in this feature and it is becoming more used and helpful each round. Other items of interest are a Circle Library List with over one hundred books available for loan between the members, and the inclusion in each Folio of a cutting from a periodical of more than passing interest. With a well supported note-book each box is, to use the Secretaries own words, "bang full and a bit more."

CIRCLE 23.—Whilst this Circle is rather slow in attaining full strength this is more than off-set by the high standard of the workers who are already members. At the recent exhibition of the "Photographic Society of Ireland" this Circle had no fewer than 23 accepted prints, and one member, Mr. R. Deegan, A.R.P.S. was successful in being awarded the "President's Medal" and the "Mortimer Shield." We are pleased to reproduce a print by the Secretary of this Circle in our current issue which was amongst the acceptances at this exhibition.



be announced twelve months in advance so that members of C.A. Societies would have adequate time in which to prepare entries. (This appeal was taken to the C.A. by our President and the C.A. Executive agreed that in future the subject of the Wastell Trophy Competition would be announced on the catalogue of each C.A. Exhibition thus providing a full twelve months' notice.—EDITOR).

Progress reports were received from the Rallies Committees of South West Area, North West Area, Midlands and Carlisle. South West Area committee will be under the Chairmanship of Mr. David Hopkins who so ably lead the team last year. Mr. Iestyn Rees being Secretary supported by Messrs. E. E. Evans, Reg Elias and Forrest Burton. North West Area (Chester) could only supply preliminary arrangements. Midlands (Cambridge) Rally was cancelled as the necessary support was not forthcoming. Carlisle will be a local affair under the leadership of a resident member as in previous years. LONDON MAY RALLY. This will be held as announced on May 10th and 11th. There will be an informal meeting at the C.A. Exhibition on the Saturday morning, during the afternoon members will attend the meeting at the House of the Royal Photographic Society to see the projection of the accepted slides in the C.A. Exhibition. On the Sunday there will be a rally at the London Zoo.

Preliminary arrangements for the September A.G.M. were also discussed. The meetings being much on the same lines as last year. The morning being at the Salon, the afternoon at the A.G.M. which would take place in the same hall as last year. The Meeting would be preceded by a meeting of Council Members and the Circle Secretaries present. After A.G.M. there would be the usual Annual Tea followed by the projection of a collection of lantern slides provided by Mr. Ramsden's Lantern Slide Circle, these would receive a commentary by a panel of persons qualified to speak upon them. There would also be exhibited the Best Prints of the Year from the Circles and the Best Print would be exhibited. On the Sunday there would be a visit to the Royal Exhibition in the afternoon and it was suggested that in place of the usual Sunday morning Ramble it might be possible to arrange a trip on one of the Thames pleasure boats.

Council also agreed that at all future meetings of members recognition discs should be provided on similar lines to that employed in pre-war rallies and gatherings. The meeting closed at 5-45 p.m., next meeting of Council would be on Saturday, 7th June, at 3 p.m.



## GOOD-BYE TO ALL THAT . . . .

For nearly sixty years Burroughs Wellcome & Co. have paid careful attention to the chemical needs of amateur photographers. The first 'Tabloid' brand Photographic Chemical was placed on the market in 1892, only a year after the daylight-loading roll film made its début. Since that time the range of 'Tabloid' Photographic Chemicals has been extended to keep pace with current trends, but always on sound practical lines. "Stunts" and fashions of the moment have not been allowed to divert policy. The name of Burroughs Wellcome & Co. is recognised as a guarantee of quality.

**'TABLOID'**

BRAND

**PHOTOGRAPHIC CHEMICALS**

DEVELOPERS: INTENSIFIER: REDUCERS: TONERS: WETTING AGENT: ETC.

*Of all photographic dealers and chemists*



**BURROUGHS WELLCOME & CO. PRODUCTS**