Review: The ‘Wellcome’
Photographic Exposure
Record and Diary for 1921

Every year for twenty years has brought us a new edition of the “Wellcome” Photographic Exposure Record and Diary, and it is really wonderful how something fresh, or some improvement, is incorporated year after year. Of course, the information regarding plate and paper speeds is always brought up to date with that precision and thoroughness which characterises the work of Burroughs, Welcome and Co.; but, apart from this, although we may think that each edition reaches perfection when it appears, the publishers refuse to rest on their laurels. This year a further improvement in the calculator—surely and deservedly the most widely-used instrument of its kind—is the outstanding novelty: (1) the directions are more simple than ever; (2) no matter what kind of plate of speed is used, a single turn of the one scale gives the correct exposure for any stop from f/3 to f/32. These advantages have been secured by setting the calculator so that it is correct for all normal subjects—that is to say, the kind of subjects the average photographer takes nine times out of ten. It is only when you need to take some exceptional subject, such as clouds or a woodland glade, for instance, that a second turn of the scale is necessary, and even then the method is as simple and as quick as it is possible to make it. Directly an experienced photographer gets to use this calculator he will practically dispense with the second turn of the scale, because he will know that a light foreground subject needs half, and a very heavy foreground needs twice, the exposure of a normal subject; and so on with portraits, etc. Consequently, he will halve or double his exposure automatically, having found what is correct for the normal. But the calculator is far from everything contained in this wonderful pocket-book, which aims at teaching the whole art of photography in the simplest way. In this it succeeds and is at once the best first book on photography for the beginner and the best pocket reference book for the expert. In no book of which we know is the information on exposures for indoor and outdoor subjects of all kinds, by daylight, artificial light, or flashlight, so complete and so reliable.