NEW GOODS

The Ilford Photo-electric Exposure Meter (Model C). Ilford Ltd., Ilford, London.

This new Ilford meter is of the general type to which most photo-electric meters conform: that is to say, it comprises a black plastic case 2-in. by 2¾-in. by rather under 1¼-in. thick, which is held horizontally in use, the photo-cell being deep-set, giving an acceptance angle corresponding to that of a reasonably wide angle camera lens. Exposure calculation is effected by a single disc, the " feel " of which is quite as good as any we have met, being very easy running and with just enough milled

edge projecting for " thumbing " round but not enough for accidental turning. This meter is of the type in which an arbitrary light value number is indicated by the pointer, and this number is then set against the speed of the material on the disc, the exposure then being read off direct, on the same disc, against any stop from *f*/1 to *f*/32. The scales are in very clear white-filled engraving that shows up brilliantly in any light against the black of the case. We would like to observe, at this point, that—purely a personal preference this, but one to be considered—we like the type of meter wherein the film speed is first set (being the one thing that will not need to be altered until the camera is reloaded) and the exposure then indicated direct at the moment of reading without further adjustment. A small point this, but we have in practice found it a great convenience when light is fluctuating and speed of operating may be important, as in colour work, where a sudden thickening of cloud may turn success to failure.

This is not a double-range instrument: its single scale, apart from the lowest readings, is almost uniform and covers a total range of light values from 6,000:1. The scale covers exposures from 1/2,000th sec. to 1 minute; stops *f*/1 to *f*/32, and film speeds 17 degs. to 35 degs. These are on the Ilford scale, and are approximately 1 deg. higher than B.S. (logarithmic) numbers. Ilford A - G groups are also engraved on the disc.

We should like to give a word of praise for the instructions issued with the meter (we hope purchasers will take the trouble to read them: they are quite short, and very clear). Apart from the straightforward instructions in the ordinary use of the meter, an explanation is given of the blotting paper highlight method as applicable both for reversal materials and for dull lighting conditions; the same method is extended to artificial light, and factors are given for the three principal classes of material—hyper-pan, normal pan, and ortho; and for very dim artificial light, the light source method (pointing the meter direct at the principal light source) is given, again with the appropriate factors. It is our experience that even if users of meters know of these methods they rarely remember the necessary multiplying factors without which the methods are useless. A table of recommended settings for Ilford films and plates is given, each material bearing in addition a designation (HP), (NP), or (O), according to type, for use in artificial light.

Finally, on the back of the instrument, factors are given for the conversion of the " light values " read directly from the pointer into illumination foot candles. Unfortunately, according to our tests these values are not correct: the illumination values so obtained are approximately twice the true intensities. No doubt this will be corrected, and it does not, of course, affect the use of the instrument as an exposure meter.

As regards the quality of the instrument the purchaser need have no doubt. It has a well-balanced movement, and is clearly a micro-ammeter of high precision. It is not quite as sensitive as our own favourite meter, giving about one-third the deflection at minimum readings. Since the first division of the scale is intended to represent a definite reading (nominally 1 foot-candle of illumination), we think there should be a zero index line, since however well balanced the movement quite a few degrees tilt downwards, is sufficient to upset the accuracy of these very small readings, and no zero adjustment is provided—we hope the movement is completely free from zero creep. As it is, the first division really means nothing, unless it is to be assumed that the meter must be held dead horizontal.

We hope that the few minor improvements we have suggested will be adopted in later series of this very excellent little meter. The price is £7 18s. 6d., complete wth neck cord.