

# AMERICAN CAMERAS

**F**OR THE first time in more than four years new cameras are beginning to appear in the market. And almost without exception the best of them are "Made in America." World War II has given an impetus to a trend that began 20 years ago. No longer will photographers look abroad for the finest cameras and lenses. American manufacturers have not only equaled traditionally fine European equipment; in several ways they have surpassed it.

Fundamental to this development has been the achievement of adequate production capacity of the finest optical glass, long almost a European monopoly. At the same time, the recent invention of completely new, rare-element glass has made possible the design of lenses of higher speed and better definition than previously thought possible (PSM, Mar. '46, p. 122).

For the time being, however, the difficulties of reconversion plus consumer demand will delay any dramatic new developments in cameras themselves. Most of the familiar models will be back unchanged except for the addition of built-in flash synchronization and antireflection lens coatings. Emphasis is on reflex cameras, often combined with the increasingly popular  $2\frac{1}{4} \times 2\frac{1}{4}$  size. Stereoscopic fans will find more attention being paid to their specialized type of photography.

Outstanding among the new reflexes is the new Ansco luxury model, due shortly on the market. It's a twin-lens job, takes a dozen  $2\frac{1}{4} \times 2\frac{1}{4}$  negatives on 120 (B2) roll film. The taking lens is a coated f/3.5 Wollensak anastigmat with a focal length of 83 mm., and the cock-and-release-type shutter has speeds ranging from one-half to 1/400 second. The set and release controls are on the sides of the lens panel, and the shutter-speed markings can be read when the camera is in operating position. Other features are an all-metal body, automatic film transport, double-exposure prevention device, and eye-level optical view finder to supplement the ground glass.

Eastman Kodak is also bringing out a small reflex camera in the same  $2\frac{1}{2}$ -inch square negative size, using 620 roll film. Both viewing and taking lenses are Kodak f/3.5 anastigmats of 80-mm. focal length, and the taking lens is coated to minimize reflection loss. The new Flash Kodamatic Shutter provides shutter speeds ranging from  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 1/200 of a second, and can be adjusted for accurate synchronization of all flash bulbs. The focusing, as in all twin-lens

## War-Born Skills Take Lead from European Products

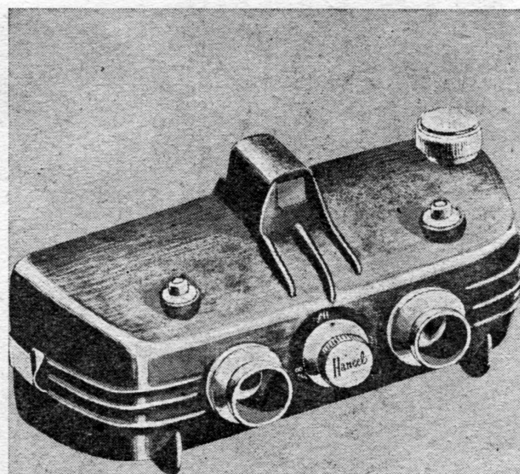
By HARTLEY E. HOWE

reflexes, is done on the ground glass, the viewing lens being geared to the taking lens: focusing range is from  $3\frac{1}{2}$  feet to infinity. The camera also has a built-in depth-of-field scale, indicated compensation for focusing while using infra-red film, and die-cast aluminum body.

The Kodak Medalist II will be among the outstanding cameras. It is essentially an improved version of the original Medalist. Differences include an improved film transport system that prevents double exposure and automatically cocks the shutter. The winding knob has been raised to where it is easier to get at and can be more easily gripped. Furthermore, the body shutter release is now operative when the accessory back—used for ground-glass focusing and sheet film—is in place.

Following the current trend, the Medalist II has built-in flash synchronization and a coated lens. To speed up operation, click stops have been added to diaphragm and shutter scales, and the depth-of-field scale, which is combined with the focusing scale, has been redesigned for easier reading.

At least two American companies are now



The Haneel Tri-vision camera takes either six stereo pictures or 12 singles.

# STEP OUT

taking advantage of the rising interest of amateurs in stereoscopic photography. The Stereo-Realist, built by the David White Co., has two Ilex-Paragon 35-mm. coated lenses, f/3.5, in shutters with speeds from one second to 1/200 of a second, and built-in synchronization. Camera body is all-metal construction with a hinged lens cap to cover the two lenses. Companion viewer has achromatic lenses and self-contained illumination.

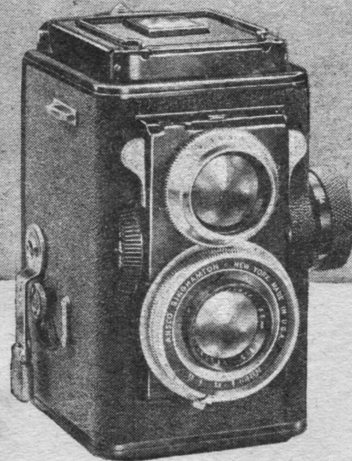
The Haneel Tri-vision Camera and viewer are less expensive. The camera has three diaphragm openings: f/8, f/11, f/16, with a shutter speed of 1/80 of a second. The two lenses are color-corrected and coated to prevent reflection. The camera uses 828 roll film on which it makes six stereo pairs. By capping one lens, 12 single negatives can be made on the same amount of film.

The Fairchild Camera and Instrument Company, specialist in aerial cameras, has also entered the hand-camera field. Although designs are still in the formative stage, the company has decided to begin early manufacture of at least three different types: a reflex, a range-finder type, and a third camera still in design process.

At present the Graflex Corporation is producing only the 4 x 5 Anniversary Speed Graphic and Graphic View cameras, both prewar models; but the Speed Graphics are equipped with coated lenses mounted in shutters with built-in flash synchronization.



Medalist II has refinements over first version, including flash synchronization and a coated lens.



New Ansco luxury model reflex, diagramed below with the viewing hood raised for focusing.

