CREATIVE LIGHT

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L. C. KALFF

MACMILLAN EDUCATION

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PREFACE

Human life is unthinkable without light, which often dominates all our thoughts and activities, without our being aware of it.

The lighting industry has made remarkable progress during the past 70 years, and even today new light sources are still being developed and more efficient and refined methods of production applied. However, the author has found during forty years of activity in the science and art of lighting that the scientists and the technicians spent all their time perfecting light sources and the means of mass production, leaving it to a few individuals to learn how best to apply these light sources in the service of man.

In the 19th century, light was not very much appreciated by the public (except perhaps by the farmer) and it was not yet considered to be an important factor in creating our mental and physical health. In those days, windows in buildings and houses were taxed, as if they were a luxury. Ladies protected their complexion against sunlight with parasols and face powder. Daylight in the houses was filtered through two or three layers of curtains. And workers in factories were even worse off: only with the gradual development of social reforms was the right to better living and working conditions for everybody granted. Even at the beginning of this century, the minimum requirements for the lighting level during work were absolutely inadequate. It was only after World War I that people started to enjoy sunshine and that a sunburnt face was no longer a disgrace. It seems almost unbelievable that this was only 50 years ago.

Parallel with this growing desire for light, in the daytime as well as at night, lighting techniques developed but it gives food for thought that the greatest stimulant to this development was the bitter necessity of the Second World War.

Too much attention is still being paid to the technical and economic aspects of lighting, and insufficient interest is taken in the well-being of man as the first aim of technical developments. We therefore hope that this book will be read not only by architects, decorators and lighting experts, but also by electrical engineers.

We should never forget that all technical developments meant to increase the comfort of our fellow men, such as ventilation, heating, air conditioning, acoustic engineering,

the fight against water and air pollution and lighting, do not exist in the first place to fight discomfort but *to contribute to human well-being* in the positive sense!

There are too few specialists in the lighting field throughout the world who are occupied with better lighting in this sense.

However, these few have always sought contacts with one another so as to make an international team which profits as much as possible from each others' thoughts and work. I would like to take this opportunity of extending my hearty thanks to this group of perhaps a few score of men for many years of co-operation.

I sincerely hope that this modest contribution to the art of lighting may bring others to pay more attention to this modern technique with its many possibilities of new applications.

L. C. Kalff

October 28, 1970

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