would not have been switched on. I don't like digital clocks. Whereas a glance at the hands on a dial tells you not only the time now but reminds you of its relation to time past and time future, any digital display demands mental arithmetic and not all of us are good at that. I also prefer my display to be at or in the controls and above all I like a pattern to recognise. The rows of pilots along the top of a Compact or a Duet furnish a lovely visual reminder when using a memory: this is the big chorus of all those spots or here is the one with only two spots and one circuit on the backcloth.

Back in 1955, we in Strand were incredulous when our new television friends said they must have pilot lamps to tell them which group memory button they had pressed last.

We came to accept it as sensible in their usuage and maybe I would have become reconciled to the VDU in time. But not if the operator – as in the theatre photograph alongside, picked at random from a heap – keeps his eyes glued to the infernal thing in preference to the stage!
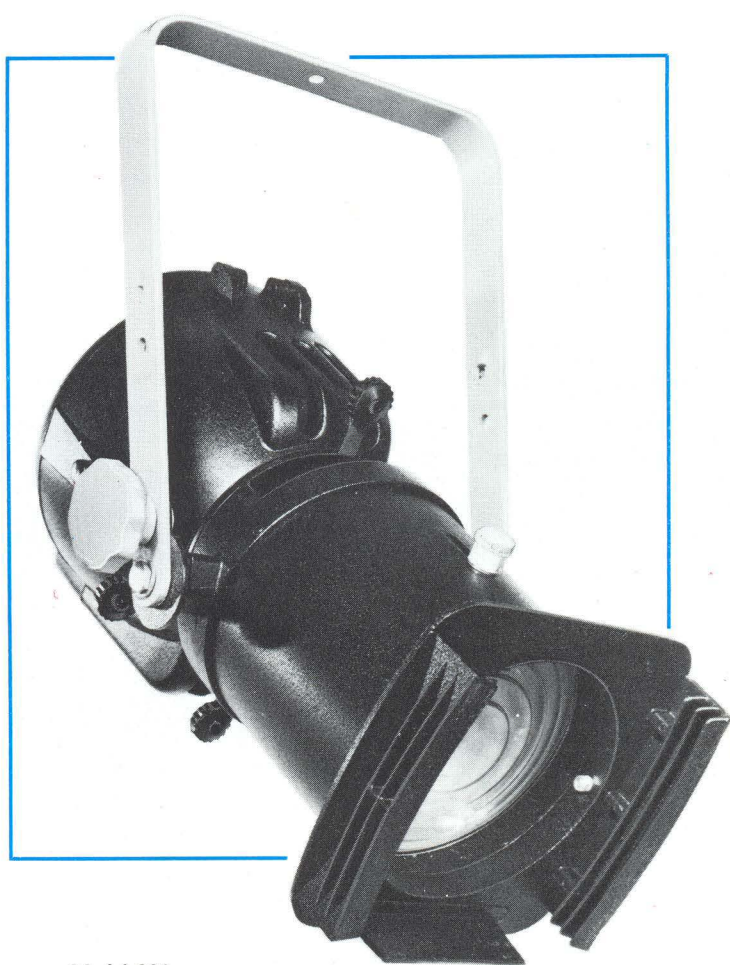
New from Rank Strand

PHILIP ROSE

I was just a bit dismayed when the editor offered me only three pages to tell you about new products. With more than a dozen items on my list perhaps the easiest way would be to introduce them in the manner of those seasonal shopping guides we see about this time. These potted descriptions, intended to whet the appetite, often end with an invitation to send for more information. I hope my little unveiling act will prompt you to do just that.

Model 823

Model 813

High performance profiles

The past months have seen the arrival of two new 650 w Halogen profile spots, the 823 and 813, the former has a 150 mm diameter prismatic lens giving a four shutter shapeable wide angle beam. The 813 has two independent plano convex lenses of 150 mm and 89 mm diameter. The lens mechanism is particularly smooth with half peak angle variable from 13° to 23° with a four shutter gate. Both these spot lights can perform with a 650 w lamp far in excess of earlier 1,000 w profiles.