

is intended. While regretting there are other absurdities in our language besides the use of "photograph" as a noun, we are pleased to note there are also a few common sense words to keep "photogram" in countenance, such as, "epigram," "anagram," "diagram" and "telegram."

CLOUDLAND.

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The effective portrayal of the many forms of clouds encountered during a March or April day is an interesting study, and a good collection of cloud negatives represents a valuable stock to any wide awake photographer. Of the study of clouds I shall say nothing in this paper, as I wish more particularly to deal with securing them on a photographic plate for future use as occasion may suggest.

As the season of clouds is advancing somewhat rapidly it will be well to be prepared to lay in a good supply, and to make the negatives under a full and distinct understanding of what is required. I am aware that the double printing of clouds into landscape is not pursued on this side of the Atlantic to a tithe of the extent it is in England; this is to be deplored, since the presence of an *indication* of clouds enhances the beauty of almost any landscape beyond conception. For the information of those who have but a dim idea of the requisites of a good cloud negative, let me say that in my opinion the principal characteristic should be an image devoid of fog in which the range of half-tone is perfect and the extreme high lights fairly intense. That portion of the negative representing blue sky should have hardly any density at all. There is little or no difficulty in securing the desired result when once we know, even

approximately, what exposure and other conditions are necessary to success.

First, then, as to choice of location, let us avoid as much as possible elevating the lens; that portion of the sky appearing in the average photogram extends but very few degrees above the horizon, therefore if we print into such a picture clouds from a greater altitude, it stands to reason such a picture will be false, and the shape and illumination of the clouds will prove the fact beyond question.

To avoid such incongruities it will be advisable to set up the camera overlooking a plain devoid of tall trees, telegraph posts, or other sky-scraping obstructions which would, by intruding among the clouds, render the negative useless for double printing. If a lake or ocean be within reasonable distance one can set up the camera overlooking the expanse of water and sky some day when clouds are plentiful, and make exposures from morning to night without interruption. If there is much wind—and this will probably be the case if there are plenty of clouds—it will be advisable to attach a firm cord to the tripod head and lash the lower end to a stake fastened in the ground; by this means the hands are at liberty to fight with the focussing cloth without fear of upsetting the camera.

In focussing the image of the clouds it is always well to include the horizon line, so as to avoid the possibility of committing the ludicrous error of printing the clouds upside down. I strongly recommend the use of a slow, thickly coated plate in conjunction with a fairly small stop and a rapid shutter.

Orthochromatic plates will be found an advantage in cases where it is desirable to photograph the light fleecy clouds commonly known as "mackerel's backs" and "mare's tails" which usu-