

the matter in hand, we trust that this article may be of considerable value to our readers.

In the first place, those who have the public to please in the matter of portraits need never fear making their clients *too good looking*.

We will take for granted that the negative comes into the retoucher's hands free from any such blemishes or defects as neglect or carelessness on the part of the photographer proper would entail; it then becomes necessary for the retoucher to determine at a glance in what directions improvements are required, and he must be possessed of such powers of discrimination as to retain without disparaging the leading characteristics of the countenance and yet tone down its defects. The two cardinal virtues, patience and perseverance, are those which must be more especially cultivated by a successful retoucher.

The retouching desk should be placed opposite a window, a northern light being preferable, and a sheet of ground glass should be interposed to subdue the light.

The materials requisite are Ewing's French retouching powder (which is unique in its results), black-lead pencils black-lead in powder, and a stump. Faber's pencils are the best, and we would recommend three sorts, F. H and H H. It is absolutely necessary to obtain a correct knowledge of the *printing qualities* of a negative as it is quite possible to destroy the best negative by unskilful retouching, owing to forgetfulness of this point. If there are any other matters our brethren would like to hear us touch upon we shall be glad to hear from them.

### Ross Lenses.

Our sales of the above have been larger during the past year than at any former period. These lenses have completely taken the lead in the English Market, and we quote verbatim from a letter received by us from Ross & Co., dated London, 12th May, referring to a large order placed by us in their hands for immediate execution. "We will send you the lenses ordered with as little delay as possible, but we cannot despatch them at once as we are exceedingly busy, and our lenses are in such demand that we are unable to keep our stock up. They go off as fast as we can make them."

Our stock is still well supplied and we are satisfied that any customer purchasing these instruments will be pleased with the results obtained.