

## THE PRINTING DEPARTMENT.

### WHY PHOTO-ELECTROTYPES ARE NO MORE.

THE INLAND PRINTER answers this question for a correspondent, who says he used to use them many years ago considerably on catalogue jobs on which there were long runs, and found them better than any plates he has handled since. Our contemporary replies: "Printers preferred photo-electrotypes because they were electrotyped from a sharp film of gelatine, the whites of which had been washed away. Plenty of time was taken in the electrotyping, so that the shell was an exceptionally hard one. But the chief merit a photo-electrotype had, in the printer's esteem, was the 'cup shape' the surface of the lines had. The outer edges of each line were more than likely to be higher than the centre of the line. This is what gave the plates exceptional wearing qualities. Three days or a week was required to get plates out by that method. This, of course, made the plates expensive. Modern rush and competition crowded photo-electrotypes out, so they are no longer made. Modern zinc and copper etchings give just as fine results as photo-electrotypes ever did, and the plates stand the wear and tear of the press equally well."

### PRINTING INK COMBINE.

The ink manufacturers in the United States are forming a trust called The Federal Ink and Supply Co. The promoters say: "It is not intended that any works shall be closed down, but it is expected that all will be operated to produce the class of product for which they are respectively adapted. The principal reason for consolidation is to prevent excessive competition, although no advance in prices is contemplated. It is not considered that there will be any necessity of advancing prices, as a substantial reduction will be made in expenses, both of manufacture and administration, which will provide for the payment of 7 per cent. interest on the preferred stock, and over 5 per cent. on the common. In fact, the profits of the various companies for the past year show that this can be done without decrease in expenses or advance in prices. The new company will control 90 per cent. of the production of lampblack and carbon black in this country used in the manufacture of black ink. This will enable the company to greatly increase their export trade, not only to Australia and South America, but also to Europe. The total sales of printing inks in 1898 are estimated at 22,000,000 lb. The aggregate net profits for the past year of the companies on which options are held were, it is stated, in excess of \$1,000,000."

### TRANSPARENT PAPER AND INKS.

Several methods of rendering paper and inks transparent are given in a recent number of The British Journal of Photography, and may furnish useful hints for new processes. Paper is coated with a solution of Irish (Caragheen) moss in water, to which a slight quantity of previously dissolved gelatine has been added. When colors are desired transparent, they must be ground in varnish, and a stronger varnish is required than for opaque colors. A fine yellow may be pro-

duced by using yellow lake and red sienna. These make a warmer color than the yellow lake alone. If cost is no objection, auramine may be used. For pale red, madder lakes should be employed, but for darker shades, crimson lakes and scarlet cochineal lakes. The vivid geranium lake gives a magnificent shade which, however, is not all fast in sunlight. The most transparent blue will always be berlin blue. For purple, madder purple is the most reliable color, but possesses little gloss. Luminous effects can be obtained with the assistance of aniline colors, but these are only of little permanence in transparencies. Light transparent green is hardly available. Recourse has to be taken to mixing berlin blue with yellow lake or red sienna. Green chromic oxide may be used if its sober, cool tone has no disturbing influence. Almost all brown coloring bodies give transparent colors, but the most useful are madder lakes and burnt umber. Grey is produced by mixing purple tone colors with suitable brown, but a grey color hardly ever occurs in transparent prints. Liquid siccatine must always be added to the colors, otherwise the drying will occupy too much time. After the drying the paper must be varnished on both sides. For this purpose a well-covering, quickly-drying, colorless, not-to-thick varnish must be used, and it must be elastic enough not to crack nor to break in bending.

Printers who have, or desire to have, up-to-date offices are advised to watch for the advertisement of Buntin, Gillies & Co., Hamilton, in next month's issue.

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