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THE *May Review of Reviews* has a hard-hitting article by Mr. Welford, on "A Corner in Medals." He asks the question, "For what purpose do our present societies exist?" and gives two answers, one of them taken from the usual prospectus of such societies, giving their reason for existing as being to further the art of science in photography, to encourage and promote the practice of photography among members and to promote the best interests of photography. The other answer, taken by Mr. Welford from his personal knowledge of the outcome of three exhibitions of a large society, is best expressed in his own words, which will certainly make some whom "the cap

fits" squirm: "We have heard much in the past as to the 'medal craze,' and in the multiplication of awards, prizes, certificates, medals, etc., the ordinary every-day society plays a prominent part. As our American friends would put it, some of our society exhibitions and competitions are 'corners' in medals. Most of the awards are foregone conclusions, or gifts for certain members. If, however, that only took place now and then, it would not matter so much; but where a profusion of awards are offered year after year, and are carried off by the same men each time, I consider that society a nice, quiet, comfortable corner from which to extract annually a sweet little collection of medals and prizes. Whether competitions are advantageous to societies or otherwise I shall not deal with, but when these competitions are held time after time, probably organized by the actual winners, with the result of merely increasing the award stock of three or four members, then I confidently assert that they are not for the benefit of the society generally, but for the aggrandisement of a few. Curiously enough, too, these few