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LIPPMANN'S METHOD OF COLOR PHOTOGRAPHY.

At the Royal Institution recently, M. Lippmann gave a most interesting lecture on "Color Photography," and a demonstration on the screen of some of the results.

He described his plan as the "interferential method," and it is performed by one exposure only, and any film can be used and developed in the ordinary way. The only addition to the dark side of the camera is a mercurial or silver backing to act as a reflector. When this announcement was made, the audience were enthusiastic to a degree, and no wonder, for the charm was in the simplicity of the invention. As the most convenient, he arranged his dark slide with an extra space, and, when the plate is put in position, a valve allows the mercury to flow down behind it, and forms a perfect reflecting surface. The photographic film is exposed with the glass side to the lens and light, and when developed with acid or alkaline developer, and fixed with cyanide of potassium, the natural color can be seen by reflected light. It is necessary to so hold the photograph that these reflected rays fall on it in the proper position, as otherwise it is only black and white as used in a negative or positive. A dark backing is also required to the photograph.

1896.

Several photographs taken by this method were projected on a small screen, and to do this an electric opaque lantern was employed, the operator fixing the subject on to a rod that permitted it to be turned so as to get the color from reflection of the incident rays. Among the subjects were a stained-glass window; a lawn, with lady sitting on a chair, and having a background of trees; a house illuminated by sunlight, with climbing plants on the walls; a mansion with tower and garden; groupings of flowers and fruit, and a gaily colored parrot. It was stated in respect of the flowers taken in sunlight that a three minutes' exposure was given.

M. Lippmann, in his explanation of the results obtained by this process, used the phonograph for a simile or