

Photographic Notes

THE PROPHECY OF PHOTOGRAPHY.—A correspondent of the *American Journal of Photography* has unearthed the following anticipatory view of photography from a fable published in Amsterdam, in 1690: "There was no painter in all the country, but when they wished the portrait of a friend or a picture representing some lovely landscape, or other object, they put water into large basins of gold and silver, and made this water face the object they wished to paint. Very soon this water would congeal, and become as the face of a mirror, where the image dwelt ineffaceably. This could be carried wherever one pleased, and gave as faithful a picture as any mirror."

DEVELOPERS FOR BROMIDE PAPERS.—Hesekiel & Co. recommend the following developer for their "grain" bromide paper:

- Solution I. Potassium oxalate, 3 oz.; water, 10 oz.
 " II. Iron sulphate, 3 oz.; water, 10 oz.
 " III. Potassium bromide, 1 oz.; water, 10 oz.

For use mix six parts (7 oz.) of I. with one part of II., add a few drops of III. to obtain extra brilliancy, and then water, 5 oz. After developing, put the prints in a clearing solution (acetic acid, 1 dr.; water, 32 oz.), rinse and fix (hypo., 4 oz., water, 20 oz.). Another good developer is a 1 per cent. solution of rodinal, with a few drops of potassium bromide solution as required. After developing, rinse and fix in hypo. solution as above, treating for ten minutes. — *Pharmaceutical Journal and Transactions*.

PRINTED LANTERN SLIDES.—Prof. W. J. Waggener, of the State University of Colorado, makes a valuable suggestion in regard to the production of lantern slides. He finds that with an ordinary printing press and engraved blocks, all kinds of pictures and diagrams may be printed upon sheets of transparent gelatin in the same way that they are now impressed upon paper. The prints thus made are ready for use as lantern slides without any further preparation, and in the majority of cases these gelatin prints, which can be produced for a few cents, will be found quite as useful as the expensive photographs on glass now in general use.

PHOTOGRAPHING GLASS VESSELS.—For the photographing of engraved glass vessels, the following method is recommended in *Die Photographie*. In order to reduce the vigor of the impression of the back surface, the front side of the glass should be rubbed with powdered talc and lightly dusted with a soft cloth, so as to leave the talc only on the etched or engraved portion. The vessel should then be filled with a very dilute solution of permanganate of potash. After such treatment, a photograph showing a clear impression of the etching or engraving may readily be obtained. — *Photography*.

INTENSIFYING FORMULA — MERCURY AND AMMONIA.

Mercuric chloride, pulv. ½ ounce.
 Hydrochloric acid (strong) . 60 minims.
 Water (hot) 20 ounces.

Use when cold. This solution keeps indefinitely.

The negative must be perfectly fixed and washed, and allowed to remain in the above solution until bleached. Wash for ten minutes in running water, and then blacken by immersion for two minutes in

Ammonia 4 drams.
 Water 10 ounces.

Afterwards wash for ten minutes in running water.

Brown stain indicates imperfect washing. Semi-opaque patches, which show white or grayish white on examining glass side of negative by reflected light, are due to imperfect fixation.

If the opacity is found to be too great after the intensification, the negative may be reduced by an immersion in a solution of sodium thiosulphite (hypo.), 1 ounce to water 20 ounces. The reduction takes place quickly; when sufficiently done, wash well in running water. Local reduction may be effected by applying the hypo. solution by cotton-wool to the too opaque portion. — *Photography*.

MOUNTING GELATIN PRINTS.—It is pointed out that paraffined paper is good for rubbing down the prints when mounting, or gutta percha tissue may be used for the same purpose. The film wants hardening; if this is secured by the use of alum the mounting may be more easily conducted. Some persons advise that the mountant should be spread on the card, and not on the print. When washed place the print face downwards on a sheet of glass, one on top of the other; then drain. The top print is then brushed over the back with a 75c starch paste, not quite cold. The print is then lifted and placed loosely in its proper place on the mount. Another print is similarly treated, and when that is in position the first print is finally smoothed down on the mount with a fine soft sponge, well damped with water. This washes the superfluous paste off the edges at the same time. The sponge is then squeezed dry, and the print is wiped dry with it. Blotting paper should never be used. Prints so mounted look clean, and never come off if the paste is of the right consistency. — *Photography*.

REDUCTION OF NEGATIVE.—The negative is plunged into water for thirty minutes, and then carried to a bath composed of

Water 100 c. c.
 Sulphuric acid 4 c. c.
 Solution of bichromate of potash, 5pc. 6 c. c.

This solution being very energetic, it is important to watch carefully its action on the negatives; the reduction takes place in uniform manner, and the plate is not spotted, as sometimes happens with the other known reducers. The negatives,

after this treatment, may be easily strengthened. — M. Coislin, in *Archiv*.

The Amateur Photographer.

The *Spatula*, in speaking of the handling of photographic supplies, says: How many there are belonging to this restless army of amateur photographers, it is impossible to discover; but it is known that more than half a million cameras have been sold in the United States alone during the last few years, and the demand is anticipated to be, during the coming season, greater than ever.

The money spent by this host during a year must amount to many millions of dollars, for its members, as a rule, belong to that much-to-be-envied class of families the heads of which are at present reluctantly figuring up their income tax. The druggist, as we have before suggested, is the proper medium through which a large proportion of this vast amount of money should reach the manufacturer. His knowledge of chemistry, and his knowledge of photography, the latter of which he should possess if he doesn't, make him especially well adapted for dealing in the supplies of which the amateur is constantly in want. Why should a person have to go to a hardware, stationery, or grocery store for "soda acid sulphite," if he happens to want it for photographic purposes? Suppose he should want to know something about the chemical, what could the grocery clerk tell him?

Not only are the chemicals proper stock for a druggist, but so also are the films, plates, papers, glasses, and all the other paraphernalia used by the photographer. In case he chose to do so, it might, perhaps, in some cases be well to draw the line at cameras, tripods, and expensive lenses, and yet, even in these, if sold by order or on commission, there will be found in most cases a profit large enough to more than pay for the extra trouble.

The department stores and the grocery emporiums have stolen so much of the proprietary trade that by divine right belongs to the pharmacist, it is only fair and good business policy for him to keep on the lookout for something to take its place. At present there is nothing else on the horizon which so legitimately belongs to him as does the line of goods we have mentioned. They are in great part chemicals, are neat and clean to handle, are in good demand, and offer a good profit.

Where there is possibly sufficient trade to warrant it, it would be a good idea to fit up a part of the store especially for the display and sale of these goods. The method of doing this would depend upon the judgment and taste of the druggist. We would, however, advise that he be as generous as possible, and, if practicable, have a small room which might be used as a sort of headquarters for the amateurs, and in which they could do some of their work. A small space could easily be partitioned off and made into a dark room. This would win the eternal gratitude of all the amateurs for miles around.