

THE guests of the Richardson House, Toronto, have an annual "guests night." Some 100 guests assembled the other night and enjoyed a good programme of musical and other attractions. The most enjoyable feature of the evening was a lime-light exhibition given by Mr. W. H. Moss. Over 250 of Mr. Moss' choice slides were shown, embracing World's Fair views and local scenes. Mr. Moss is a past master in the art of slide making.

OUR readers who are interested in "Bikes" will be pleased to learn that Marshall Wells has opened a bicycle emporium at 6 and 8 Adelaide Street West, Toronto. The star wheel of Mr. Wells' stock will, of course, be the "Raleigh," on which he has so often won victories. In addition, however, there will be found several other makes, and a most complete repair shop in charge of a competent workman.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Arrangements have been made with a photographic expert of acknowledged ability, whereby our readers may have the benefit of his experience, through this column, absolutely free of charge. Queries must be received by the first of the month to ensure their appearance in the current issue.

Correspondents requiring detailed advice by mail, must enclose a fee of One Dollar.

All communications for this column to be addressed to

P. O. DRAWER 2602.

FRED. DAVID—If you mean to take portraits in a tent, it will be well to have one provided with a rolling skylight cover and a simple system of blinds; but if you only intend to use the tent for printing, etc., then an ordinary one of heavy duck will be most suitable. Portable darkrooms are made in two styles—one of the light tight fabric, and the other of boards so arranged as to pack flat for travelling—we prefer the latter kind. Any of the stock dealers advertising in our pages will quote you reasonable prices for such tents and all necessary fittings.

T. GEDDES.—It will not do; try the advertising department

T. E. H.—We give the information this month in "Practical formulae."

HOWE—You have no remedy. You should register the copyright of so valuable a subject before publication you could then sue for damages and penalties.

ENQUIRER.—The powder you send is as useless for flash-light work as pulverized china. You must procure the powdered metallic aluminum.

KITTIE.—If you first give the zinc a preparatory coating, you will not be troubled by having the paint chip off it. The best treatment is as follows: Dissolve one part each of chloride of copper, nitrate of copper, and sal ammoniac in sixty four parts of water, and add one part of hydrochloric acid. Brush the zinc with this mixture which will give it a deep black color, after drying for a day any oil paint will adhere to it permanently.

TRAVELLER.—We understand there is no charge to Amateurs for Photography at the California Mid-winter Exposition. Hand cameras up to size of 5x7 may be used, but no tripods. Anyone wishing to take photographs in the grounds may do so by signing agreement not to sell any pictures.

WILL J.—(1) We should say the picture you send would stand a very good chance for a medal in the competition you speak of. Send it in by all means. (2) Yes, you will certainly receive fair treatment.

CERTIFICATES OF PROFICIENCY.

RULE 1.—Persons desirous of gaining our certificates of proficiency in any of the following branches, must send in not less than three mounted prints of any size (except where otherwise stated) and in any process.

RULE 2.—Full name and address of sender must be legibly written on the back of each photograph.

RULE 3.—Prints may be sent at any time, by any one, whether a subscriber to the JOURNAL or not.

RULE 4.—Anyone guilty of taking certificates for work that is not their own will be prosecuted for obtaining such certificates under false pretences.

RULE 5.—Certificates will be sent out, and the winners' names published in this JOURNAL, each month.

RULE 6.—No class distinction as to amateur or professional. Hereafter such distinction will not be made in our competitions.

RULE 7.—Winners of a third or second grade certificate are not barred from winning a first grade in a later examination.

RULE 8.—The subjects shall be as under:

RETOUCHING. Heads, cabinet size only, mounted on regular size cabinet cards. Three prints from different negatives before, and after, retouching.

POSING. Three mounted prints of single figure and three of groups, any size. The ease of pose, and gracefulness of the figures will be chiefly considered.

PRINTING. Competitors in the Portrait Class must send in at least three mounted plain prints, and six vignettes, from one negative—any size. Competitors on the Landscape printer's class must submit at least three mounted prints off each of three negatives—any size. Equality of prints will be the chief consideration. Any of the following processes may be adopted: Platinotype, bromide, collodio-chloride, gelatino-chloride, carbon, or albumen. Each set of prints must be made in one process only.

LIGHTING. Three portraits, any size, either head and bust, three-quarter figure or full length.

RULE 9.—These rules may be amended from time to time if considered necessary.

RULE 10.—The decision of the judges shall be final and all photographs will become the property of THE CANADIAN PHOTOGRAPHIC JOURNAL.