

Photographic Notes.

Photographic Paragraphs.

Formaldehyde in place of alkali. According to a note in a contemporary, formaldehyde can be used with pyro instead of an alkali, with the advantage that the film does not become so much softened.

To keep ferrous sulphate solution as long as possible acidulate it slightly with sulphuric acid, nearly fill the bottle, and put in an iron nail or wire. The hydrogen disengaged will prevent the oxidation of the ferrous salt. The bottle should be kept in the light.

A short time after setting negatives to dry (especially after intensifying them with uranium) it is advisable to inspect the surface of the films. If water has collected in places it should be gently absorbed into a bit of blotting-paper, or, perhaps better, a soft handkerchief. Adopting this plan often prevents most unsightly and troublesome spots.

Doublet lenses are slower than single ones, theoretically, when used at the same aperture, because they have a greater number of reflecting surfaces. Practically this is quite immaterial, as the difference is one which can only be detected by measuring appliances of great delicacy. Ten times the difference would not be noticeable in the finished print.

Confined development has been recommended for dealing with doubtful exposures. To this end the plate is soaked in water and then immersed in developer. A clean glass plate also wetted with the developer is laid upon the film, and development allowed to proceed with the solution enclosed between the two glasses alone. To examine the progress of affairs both are taken out together, while,

by raising the glass plate, rocking the dish for a few moments, and replacing it, a fresh supply of developer can be given.

A cheap "Claude Lorraine glass" may be made by taking an old glass negative the size of the focussing glass of the camera and cleaning off the film. Dry it thoroughly and varnish one side, in the

Very soft effects are obtained with home-made vignettes cut out of a piece of cardboard or stout paper. Along the edges of the hole made is pasted a little cotton wool. This is thinned out, so that part protrudes over the edge of the cut-out portion. The vignette is placed into the printing frame, cotton-wool outwards, and the back in immediate contact with the back of negative.

A toning bath made with acetate of soda is supposed to keep well. It is hopeless to expect it to do so unless it is made either with distilled water, or with water that has been well boiled and allowed to go cold.

When enlarging in the dark room, bright objects should not be brought near the cone of light rays. A small room with light-colored walls and ceiling may reflect so much light that every enlargement made in it is hopelessly fogged.

A novel form of backing was suggested recently in a foreign contemporary. It is composed of fifteen grammes of Castile soap dissolved in 300 cc. of strong alcohol. After standing for a fortnight it is filtered, and three grammes each of erythrosine and aurine added. It can be applied with a brush or sponge, and said to dry instantly.



Flower-Pot Rock, Georgian Bay, Ont.

same manner as a negative, with black varnish. When this is completely dry glue a piece of strong brown paper over the varnish to protect it from injury, and bind the edges of the plate with lantern-slide binding strips. Make a case of ordinary corrugated wrapping paper to carry it in. We then have a kind of mirror which reflects the image in a much lower tone than it is in nature, and gives greater prominence to the light and shade masses.

PREPARATION OF SALTED PAPER.—For retouching purposes it is even yet preferable to use salted papers, as it is specially suitable on account of the absence of film. The worker can prepare this salted paper for himself with very little trouble, by the following method. The raw paper, preferably a suitable Whatman's paper, is cut into the requisite sizes, and then covered in the ordinary way with a thin coating of arrowroot paste. After drying, it is treated with