

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

W ETHELBERT HENRY.

Owing to lack of space we have answered other correspondents by mail.

J. W. POWELL.—There is no necessity for using serum of milk. We will publish an article on this subject next month.

S. J. JARVIS.—Your "rural couple" must be very hard to please. Considering the fact that they were shown (and duly approved) proofs, they are not entitled to sit over again after receipt of their completed order. The size of the heads is certainly small for a cabinet mount, but we fail to see how you could make them any larger (side by side) without spoiling the whole effect. Besides, the couple saw the size before passing the proofs, so there is no excuse for them on this head. As for the depth of printing, in our opinion the shade is correct, but, of course, these "rural couples" usually desire their sun tanned features to be represented as so much whitewash; or in their own words, they prefer "nice white faces"—the abomination of a clever photographer. As for the lady not being taken front face, our candid opinion is, that the lady's front face would look *simply absurd* in a photogram: round and fat, and considerably larger than that of the man. Their contention that she "looks cross" is simply untrue—unless she "looks cross" in a totally different way to anybody else. She seems to us to be a very nice looking girl, and we would credit her with more common sense than she has displayed in this case. We suppose you have done the same as nearly every photographer does when a woman tries every method in her power to get a resitting—just to see how another dress looks when photographed,—you have probably swallowed your ire, looked pleasant, and given the resitting rather than have the cranky sitter sow broadcast untruths about you. In some cases this is good policy, but having shown a proof, and had it duly approved, we should certainly sue for the full amount of the bill. No sensible jury would hesitate for a moment in awarding the verdict to the photographer. Show the "rural couple" this paragraph and let them see what we think of them.

Think of a photograph holder that does not cover the least part of the picture, and comparing the real value (so far as doing justice to the photo. is concerned) the *one cent* Becker Holder is far superior to a \$10.00 cabinet frame, which takes the very life out of a photo. (See "ad." in advertising pages.)

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 distinctions 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.

To do easily what is difficult for others is the mark of talent. To do what is impossible for talent is the mark of genius.—*Amiel*.

According to a French physician, to render tobacco harmless to the mouth, heart, and nerves, without detriment to the aroma, it is only necessary to insert in the pipe or cigar holder a piece of cotton wool steeped in a solution of pyrogallic acid.