

are trying in the Michigan association the experiment of issuing a circular letter at stated intervals. For instance, at the last Michigan State convention Sunday closing was prominently before the convention. Our May letter is in regard to this important question, and is designed to secure a full and fair statement from all photographers in the State as to their views on this important piece of legislation. Several points of interest discussed at the convention and not decided on for lack of information will be taken up during the year and brought before all the members of the association by means of a circular letter.

Michigan held its first State association meeting last January and it was a great success; but we hope in 1897 to far surpass it in display of pictures and in general interest.

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HOW TO MODEL THE FACE BEFORE MAKING THE NEGATIVE.*

By J. C. STRAUSS.

There is no subject that requires as much and receives so little thought as this. It is not overestimating things to say not more than one photographer in one thousand knows how to model a face. Examine their pictures, and we find the faces white with black spots for eyes, nose and mouth. Who ever saw a healthy man or woman with a white face?

Take a good look at any subject under the light. If they have on clean linen, look at the difference between the color of the flesh and the collar. There should certainly be the same difference in the color values on the plate.

One cause for this defect in the work of so many photographers is the fact that they photograph a man with a sunburned face exactly as they would a child. Now stop and think of the difference in the flesh tints—the child with a light pink complexion, the man with brown, green and yellow in his face.

To photograph the latter properly, and in order to blend these colors softly, the light should be subdued and the plate well timed. Sometimes one has a bald head to photograph. The subject has been out doors very much, and the sunburned face will photograph dark, while the top of the head, protected by the hat, will photograph light. Here is a chance to show the usefulness of Strauss modeler. With a piece of chamois leather apply to the white bald head some of this preparation. Then again we often notice the lack of perspective in the face, caused by being poorly modeled. The nose does not stand away from the cheek in relief, but looks like a flat surface. If you will place the sitter under the light for a broad light, and observe carefully the color values in the face, you will at once see that the light striking the side of the nose is the same as that on the cheek towards the light. Apply a little Strauss modeler to the side of the nose in order to make it photograph a little darker, then look at the nose,

*This article, with many others of great interest, will appear in Mr. Hetherington's new book, "The Right and Wrong of Photography."