

than the galleries of the American Fine Arts Society. Judged from every standpoint, the New York Amateur exhibition promises to be a great success. We expect to present a full report of it to our readers in our next issue.

A SUGGESTION.

As a means of increasing the membership of camera clubs, it is suggested that a class of amateurs be started by some of the older members and the learners instructed without charge, the only requisite being that they should be members of the club. By starting such a class and advertising it, many new members may be gotten in most cities. It may be represented that the amount of the initiation fee will be saved many times by the information which may be acquired from instructions by experienced photographers. A class started at this time will be ready for earnest and satisfactory results during the early summer months. The expense to a club would be very slight. A course of six lessons or demonstrations would be sufficient to start the amateur on the right road and point out the multitude of stumbling blocks at the beginning. In every club there will be found some members who are capable and willing to undertake the duties of instructors. In the larger cities, where the class would probably be large, the club would also be large and more members could share the burden. If the demonstrations and meetings were made purely informal, the interest would probably be greater, and the "school feeling" would be replaced by an interest in helping the backward ones. Then a "bureau of information" could be made a feature by having each pupil

bring at least one photogram or negative to every meeting. The errors and lack of information could be clearly explained by means of an object lesson of each specimen submitted. This would be an incentive to better work.

TONING BLUE PRINTS.

BY H. H. BUCKWALTER.

While few professionals ever care to use the iron or blue print process, nearly all amateurs find it most convenient for some of their negatives. One of the principal objections to blue prints has been the lack of delicate detail and the crisp sharpness found in albumen or other printing papers. This lack of detail was caused by prolonged washing, generally, and in some instances unsuitable paper. In commercial papers the majority of workers find it almost impossible to get a fresh article. Especially is this true of those living away from the large cities. In the west the papers on sale are generally too old for printing from a negative full of fine detail or from negatives of much contrast. The color of the sensitized paper is generally between deep blue and mouse color, and if a strip of the paper is washed without exposure to the sun, the result is a muddy blue instead of white.

Of course, most amateurs who have passed the "push the button" stage sensitize their own paper when they have time; but sometimes this is impossible and the commercial paper must be used. On long tours where the plates are developed en route and saved for printing at home it is very convenient to make a few blue prints occasionally. It is remarkable to notice the number of favors and "lifts" a few blue prints of local scenery, etc., will procure from the farmer or keeper