

their being so. The next thing necessary in the work is a squeegee—a tool generally in the possession of everyone, now that highly glazed pictures are so much in vogue—and some even surface upon which to squeegee the exposed prints into contact with the support. A piece of plate glass is as good as anything. Any kind of photographic dishes, or other vessels, will do for the cold water, the bichromate solution, and for the alum bath. A thermometer most people have. If not, a common bath or dairy thermometer can now be obtained at most chemists for about a shilling. These instruments, though rarely correct, are always accurate enough for our present purpose.

“It is necessary that the tissue, when in the sensitive condition, should be kept dry and protected from the air. An ordinary cylindrical tin case answers well, but it will be a convenience in working if the tissue be kept flat. This can be done by keeping it tightly pressed in a printing frame; it will then be as perfectly protected from the atmosphere as if it were in an air-tight case. I think I have now got to the end of what is actually necessary for working in a small or experimental way, except something for developing the pictures in. It is obvious that any vessel that will hold hot water will serve; but for convenience in working it should not be less than four or five inches deep, and somewhat larger than the largest picture to be manipulated in it. A stout tin tray is very suitable, and if it be supported on legs, or by any other means, a gas jet or a spirit lamp

can be placed beneath, so as to keep the water from cooling. A good-sized teakettle completes the outfit.

“Before concluding, I will say a few words about the tissue. At one time there was a difficulty—unless a special apartment was arranged for the purpose—in sensitizing the tissue and drying it, so that its best working condition was secured. With the tissue as then supplied, if it were dried too rapidly there was the danger of reticulation and other troubles. If it were dried too slowly, there was the almost certainty of insolubility. Indeed, at one time the sensitizing and drying of the tissue used to be considered the bugbear of the carbon process. But during the last few years the Autotype Company have so improved their tissues that these troubles are now practically nil, and absolutely so if the new daylight tissue be used; for that, after sensitizing, can be placed anywhere to dry—indoors or out. If the daylight tissue be used, a few tin or ferrotype plates will be required for drying it upon. If neither should be at hand, glass plates, backed with black varnish, will do quite as well. My advice, however, is for the beginner, in his first few essays, to purchase the tissue ready sensitized.

“In the foregoing my aim has been, as already said, to indicate to all, or any, who may have been deterred from essaying carbon printing on account of imaginary cost for plant, that they already possess all that is actually necessary for trying it—sufficiently, at least, to see if it will prove profitable in their business.”