

Our Amateurs.

IT is a fact that the amateur, or to use the newly coined word, the camerist, has done a very great deal toward advancing photography to the high point it has now reached. As a rule they have more time (and money) to spend in working out new photographic theories than has the average professional who, quite often, is content to turn out the same work with the same lenses, plates, developers, and other accessories that was used for years past, so long as the engagement book is kept comfortably full, and only changes when a demand arises for a new tone or a new something that can only be obtained by a change of procedure, and this new something is very often, if traced back, found to be the offspring of the mind of the insatiable amateur searching after new light in the dark room.

So, all hail the amateur, and may he live long and increase in his might.

The term amateur we use here as meaning the true amateur who goes into photography for the pleasure and exercise to be derived from the study and self-working of this, the most fascinating of arts, and not to those who, under the cloak of amateurs, do view work or any other kind at prices which simply shut the professional, with his years of practical experience and expense of carrying on his gallery, out.

Don't be satisfied with being a "Press the Button" crank. There is little glory, and less satisfaction in that form of photography. The writer does not mean to indiscriminately cry down Detective Cameras, for they are just the thing under many circumstances, and everyone should possess one. But if you are going into photography for the pleasure there is in it, get a good outfit, and learn how to use it, and right here it is good advice to say, don't go in for it unless you are prepared to pay for it, and to devote time and study to it. Learn the primary part thoroughly. Do your own developing. Never mind the wasted plates of first trials, for if you profit by experience they will be well paid for. Become familiar with the use of the stops

and of the plates you adopt, so as to know just what exposure to give in different lights. Learn to know just where to set your tripod to get the most effective picture. You will then find you have taken to yourself the most fascinating of mistresses, a source of lasting enjoyment.

We shall begin in our next number a series of practical talks on photography that the young amateur will find of great value. Even the progressed will find themselves benefitted by beginning with us in the first steps of photography, and walking through its interesting passages with the able leader who will have charge of that department.

We earnestly request the secretary of each camera club, or in circles where as yet no club exists, some amateur to send us news of everything of interest in their locality. In fact we ask every amateur in Canada to help to make this department of our magazine of interest and a success.

Every city and town of any size should have its camera club, with regular nights for meetings.

Given a few earnest and enthusiastic camerists and a club room, if only a few chairs for furniture and a closet for a dark room, and the interest awakened in the art will be surprising. Encourage your friends to join, and then give them what help you can in passing the early stages.

We hope to receive the subscription of every amateur in Canada. Subscribe and tell your friends to do likewise.

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Ignorance.

He didn't read the papers for they hadn't any news;

At least they didn't coincide with his especial views,

And when he came to town one day, with criticism ripe,

He climbed to an electric lamp to light his ancient pipe;

He hadn't read the papers—but he knew just what was best;

He simply touched the wire and—the fluid did the rest.

—*Atlanta Constitution.*

Insinuating photographer (holding photographs in hand)—"No, Madam, you have never been successfully posed; none of these pictures do you justice." Plain lady—"I do not want justice, sir; I want mercy."—*Smith, Gray & Co's Weekly.*