

Our first competition will be limited to artists in Ontario, and the City of Toronto will be excluded from the competition.

Intending competitors must give in their names before the First of March. Pictures must be in our hands before the First of May; prizes will be awarded before the First of June. Regulations as to sending competing pictures, and how to mark them, will be published in abundant time; negatives of prize pictures to be our property. Judges will be selected by a vote of the Competitors, from a list submitted to them next month.

Competing pictures to be our property. We will place them in an album for the inspection of visitors to our wholesale establishment, so that every one may have an opportunity of inspecting them at leisure.

As our intention is solely to stir up a spirit of generous rivalry in order to induce some small advance in the art, we hope a large number will enter as Competitors, and that really good works will be sent in Competition.

We make a very handsome table for the studio; Walnut top, richly carved in imitation of walnut. It is the handsomest table for the money yet offered to Canadian Photographers. Price \$16.00. Photographs on application.

Distillate from the Journals,

The following may be useful to our readers, now that glass is so dear.

TO CLEAN OLD VARNISHED PLATES.

In a saucepan or iron pot, capable of holding half-a-gallon, place two pints of water and half-a-pound of carbonate of soda (common washing soda), and dissolve by heat; in fact, bring it to the boiling point, and while boiling, stir in gradually two ounces of freshly-slaked lime mixed with two ounces of water. Let the whole boil for five minutes, and the solution will be ready for use. Pour it, while still hot, into a flat porcelain dish, and then slip the plates into it, one by one. After an immersion of half-a-minute even the hardest varnished film will peel off like a piece of loose gelatine; and by a wash under the tap the plates will be freed from every trace of the solution. They may then be wiped dry, or allowed to become so spontaneously, when they will be in the condition of unused plates.

The solution will keep indefinitely, and may be used over and over again, only requiring to be brought to the boiling point each time.