

taken for pictures to which very delicate work has been applied, and are always appreciated by those whose custom is worth having. Another simple way of removing the wearing smoothness of vignettes is to tear roughly out of brown paper a piece large enough to cover the face and shoulders, and to place on the printed vignette a sheet of tissue or note paper, on this the rough mask of brown paper, and expose to light for a very short time.

Of the numerous dodges and appliances for printing vignettes everyone is well acquainted, but their successful use depends altogether on the user, and not upon the appliance used. Thin card, with a hole in the centre, and cuts extending from the hole to the edges, or as far as is necessary, gives good results in the hands of those who know how to manipulate the cut edges, which are apt to get flattened down when the printing frames are taken in at night; others use a card, or piece of wood beveled inward, and cover up the aperture with tissue paper when the light comes strongly from one direction. If the depth of the printing frame is only small it is advisable to increase it by nailing an extra frame of wood all round to keep the vignetter at a good distance from the negative. By making this frame deep at one end and shallow at the other, and placing the lower part of the negative at the shallow end, it is easy to keep the graduation within bounds in the neighborhood of the waist. It is, however, much better to block out on the negative, by means of opaque paper, tissue paper and paint, any transparent parts of the negative which might show too strongly than to trust entirely to the vignetter.

As the light is constantly moving, it is necessary to keep the frames which contain vignettes constantly moving, too, if we wish to get the best results. To this end a board to hold the frames, suspended from a roasting-jack, enables the printer to get the most delicate prints in the most shifty or one-sided lights, to obtain softness without having resource to such appliances just mentioned. Lithographed papers to fix on the front of the negative have been

introduced; their principal objection is that the time of printing is considerably increased, but, if the negatives were made specially thin, there is no reason why such papers should not be useful, for being close to the negative there is no fear of the light getting to parts of the print where it is not wanted. Even with the ordinary vignetting masks, vignettes take a long time to print, especially at this time of the year. The new gelatino-chloride of silver paper, therefore, offers advantages which no doubt will soon be taken advantage of, for we shall be able to make our negatives still thinner, and so print more quickly.

If so much trouble is required in printing vignettes, the thought naturally occurs why not make vignetted negatives in the camera by placing between sitter and lens a shield to cut off that portion of the figure we do not require? Here again practice refuses to conform to theory, for excepting for what are known as Russian vignettes, where the shading is done in black instead of white, screens in front of the camera are a failure, for the light from them is reflected in such quantities into the lens that the negatives are always more or less fogged. If anyone wishes to experiment in this direction we could advise the use of a single lens with a diaphragm in front. Those who have had experience in taking snow views know how much easier it is to do good work with single lenses than with doublets, simply because of the large amount of foreign light reflected on the latter.

In conclusion, we would advise all those who could afford it to have nothing to do with vignettes whatever.—*F. M. Sutcliffe, in Photography.*

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The *Reviews of Reviews*, a breezy, bright and pleasing journal published in London, Eng., proves a very acceptable addition to our photographic literature.

As its name suggests, it furnishes its readers with all the best "kernels" without their having the trouble of cracking the shells. We wish Mr. Welford success in his new venture.