

I believe this is wrong. In many respects summer is better adapted for taking flashlight pictures than winter, for doors and windows may be opened wide during the warm season for the egress of the stifling smoke that fills the rooms after any considerable use of magnesium powder. Lately, I understand, aluminum has been used for flashlight photography and is said to have been quite satisfactory. It is claimed that it produces less smoke and a light of greater intensity than that of magnesium.

The amateur will do better to purchase his magnesium powder ready made than to attempt to manufacture it himself, for it is made of highly explosive ingredients. Only recently the workshop of a photographer who was compounding some of the dangerous stuff—I think it was in Chicago—was totally wrecked, and the poor fellow was instantly killed and his remains mutilated beyond recognition. Especially those recipes containing chlorate of potassium are exceedingly explosive and should be avoided, and flashlight powders that are known to contain that ingredient should never be used under any circumstances. Amateurs had better leave the manufacture of flashlight powder to those who make a business of it, but if they should be resolved to make it themselves, I know of no better mixture than the following: Three parts of finely powdered permanganate of potassium to four parts magnesium powder. But even this compound may explode, so that I must repeat my warning. Only to one who does not value his limbs and life is the manufacture of flashlight powder a delightful occupation.

Those who propose to take but a limited number of flashlight photographs will find the Blitz-Pulver cartridges, that may be obtained from any dealer in photographic supplies, of the greatest usefulness. I do not desire to specify any particular kind ;

those that bear the name of a reputable firm may be relied upon. In igniting these cartridges great care should be taken. After severely burning my fingers in lighting the first one, I evolved a plan which has been successful ever since and which may prevent others from burning their digits. I take a long piece of paper, fold it several times, and then place one end of it under the fuse while the other hangs loosely down and is lit when everything is ready for the exposure. This method gives enough time to the photographer to get to a distant part of the room, in case he wishes to photograph himself, or to be included in a group or interior. To one who desires to make many photographs by means of this artificial light, a flashlight lamp becomes indispensable. There are many different designs on the market, varying in price from one to five dollars, but anyone possessing ingenuity can make one himself at small expense. The principle is the same in all of them. The component parts of these lamps are a receptacle which holds some material saturated with alcohol, another filled with the magnesium powder, and rubber tubing and a bulb by means of which the powder is blown through the alcohol flame. Lamps of simple construction are often the best and should be preferred to complicated ones.

Flashlight photography is especially adapted for taking interiors, groups and portraits. It is impossible to give specific rules, as so much depends on circumstances and individual judgment. The best results will be obtained with rapid plates, quick lenses, and large stops. In taking flashlight photographs of interiors or portraits, I generally focus on a lighted candle, which is held on a plane with the person about to be photographed or which is placed in the most distant part of the room. It is almost impossible to focus with