

of *The Photogram*; (3) for the best suggestion as to how *The Photogram* challenge shield could be best used for the advancement of photography in its widest sense; (4) for the best practical article on a photographic subject, to consist of not less than 1000 and not more than 5000 words—may be illustrated or not; (5) for the best practical article on a photo-mechanical subject, with same stipulations as No. 4; also (6) classes in landscape competition, and a societies' competition. All information may be obtained from the publishers of *The Photogram*, 6 Farringdon Avenue, London, E.C., England.

**BLACK VARNISH.**—This varnish is still in much request for stopping out skies, and it answers tolerably well for preventing halation when applied to the back of a plate. A quick-drying varnish is made as follows:

Asphaltum.....	3 oz.
Gutta-percha.....	gr. xx.
Lampblack.....	1 oz.
Benzine.....	10 oz.

Macerate the asphalt and gutta-percha in the benzine till dissolved; then mix in the lampblack.—*Chemist and Druggist*.

**PLATINUM TONING BATHS FOR CHLORIDE PAPERS.**—Platinum toning is now all the rage for both gelatino and collodio chloride papers, particularly those with matt surface, and either a liquid or a dry bath may be put up for sale.

#### Liquid Bath.

Potassium chloroplatinite.....	30 grs.
Lactic acid (sp. g., 1.21).....	155 m.
Distilled water.....	10 oz.

Directions for use—Dilute this solution with double its volume of water before use.

#### Dry Powder.

Potassium chloroplatinite.....	15 grs.
Sodium lactate.....	150 "
Acid sulphate or phosphate of soda.....	150 "

Directions for use—Dissolve the powder in 35 ozs. of water.

For platinum toning there are three or four conditions which must be fulfilled, and these should be included in the shape of a circular with these baths. After printing, the prints should be placed in a solution of salt, 2 oz.; water, 20 oz., for at least ten minutes, and kept on the move. They should then be washed for five minutes and toned, and, when toning is complete, transferred to a solution of washing soda, about 1:20, and thence, after about five minutes, to a fixing bath composed of:

Hypo.....	2½ oz.
Sodium sulphite.....	1 "
Sodium carbonate.....	1 "
Water.....	20 "

and then thoroughly washed. The above toning baths will keep any length of time, do not eat out the details of the high lights, and will tone several prints in succession, giving sepia brown to brownish black tones, according to the depth of

printing and length of stay in the toning bath. The only difficulty about platinum toning is that it is extremely difficult to tell what the final tone will be, as the printed-out image is either yellowish or reddish-purple, and the deposited platinum is black, so that on fixing we have the purple tone destroyed, and the effect of the yellow silver image added to the finely divided platinum black. *Pharmaceutical Journal*.

## Pharmacy Abroad.

WHICH IS THE LAND OF THE CUTTER?—The Danish Pharmaceutical Society has been curious to know what medicines cost in various countries, and about two years ago sent round a prescription, with the following results:

Denmark.....	100
Norway.....	116
Austria.....	117
Hungary.....	125
Sweden.....	126
Belgium.....	141
Germany.....	145
Holland.....	147
Switzerland.....	149
Portugal.....	163
Russia.....	197
Italy.....	242
France.....	247
England.....	259
United States.....	350

The figures represent the proportionate cost. It is rather curious that the three countries in which prices of medicines are not controlled by law appear by the list to be the dearest; yet we feel that the 259 put against England could be much reduced by judicious selection of the shop at which to present the prescription. We have on record as much variation of prices in England as is shown by the table.—*Chemist and Druggist*.

THE Italian Government have established a station in New York city for the purpose of analyzing the olive oils and wines which come from that country. For many years past the adulteration of these goods has been largely practised, and it is hoped now that a stop will be put to the practice, and that the purity of olive oil and Italian wines will be unquestioned.

PHARMACISTS AND MEDICAL MEN IN BELGIUM.—In the report of the Pharmaceutical Congress held at Brussels it is interesting to notice that the Belgian Minister of Agriculture stated, by his deputy, that the government intended to suppress the practice of medical men supplying their patients with medicine. It appears that a commission has been appointed to draw up new medico-pharmaceutical laws, and the chief work of the congress was the consideration of such matters as might assist the government in rendering those laws generally satisfactory. Amongst the more important conclusions arrived at, after due deliberation, were those which recognize

(a) the necessity of suppressing the system by which numerous pharmacies are conducted by managers instead of legally qualified proprietors, and (b) the desirability of establishing a minimum tariff. It was also considered desirable to limit the number of pharmacies, either by legal enactment or by increasing the stringency of the examinations. The latter plan has already proved effectual in reducing the number of pharmaceutical students in Belgium. The idea of establishing unanimity in the prices charged for dispensing medicines, by marking the sum charged on the prescription, is also worthy of note, as well as the suggestion that the pharmacien should make it his business to analyze alimentary substances. The congress is stated to have been extremely successful from all points of view, and the whole report will be found of considerable interest to British pharmacists.—*Pharmaceutical Journal*.

#### DRUG TRADE REGULATIONS IN JAPAN.

—A few months ago the subject of Japanese regulations in the drug trade was frequently discussed, and much dissatisfaction appeared to exist on the part of certain manufacturers whose productions were interfered with by the Japanese authorities. On this point we have caused inquiries to be made in Japan, the answers to which enable us to publish the following statements. There is, we are informed, no regulation in Japan under which imported drugs must be analyzed. Physicians are now required to use the chemicals and drugs prescribed in the Japanese Pharmacopœia, and those only, and the wholesale druggists usually obtain the guarantee of the Hygienic Laboratories established by government, or of those started by private enterprise, such as the Osaka Drugs Examination Company, known in Japanese as the Yakuhi-shiken-kaisha of Osaka, for their chemicals and drugs, simply as a satisfaction to themselves and a means of securing the confidence of buyers. Of course, any chemicals or drugs which do not come up to the standard of purity prescribed in the Pharmacopœia are not used by physicians. The preparations, however, of such makers as Nippon Seiyaku Kaisha, of Tokio, are sold without a guarantee of the Hygienic Laboratory. As regards the report that certain proprietary medicines have been submitted to analysis and rejected, we are informed that the regulations regarding proprietary medicines simply require that no poison shall be contained in them. Even very small quantities of dangerous medicines and drugs are prohibited if the authorities think that such quantities may be the source of danger if taken imprudently. Hence, certain well-known proprietary preparations largely used in this country are not allowed to be sold to the public in Japan, but only to physicians or those bringing physicians' prescriptions. Such medicines as Scott's Emulsion of Cod-Liver Oil with Hypophosphites, Ayer's