

The January number of the *American Amateur Photographer* sports a cover of new design, which is certainly an improvement over the lady who so industriously worked away at her developing tray.

*The Practical Photographer* is offering seventeen guineas in prizes for designs for signboards, lettering for view albums, posters, show mount, and design for backs of photos and mounts for use by photographers. A prize is also offered for a design for the front cover of THE JOURNAL.

Now is the time to fix up your studios for the spring and summer trade; renovate the old furniture; exchange your old backgrounds for new ones, or for the backgrounds of which a brother photographer is heartily tired. Such exchanges can be readily effected, and the old grounds are easily renovated at very small cost. Fill in the dull days by preparing for a brisk season this year.

THE first number of *The Photogram* is a distinct success, and is full of interesting original matter. In it are published the portraits of the editors (Mr. and Mrs. H. Snowden Ward) and the members of the permanent staff, which includes Messrs. Chas. W. Gamble, W. T. Whitehead, "Schriftfuhrer" (a fancy sketch), and W. Ethelbert Henry. The publication of this number has already reached its ninth thousand, and, owing to increase in weight of the forthcoming numbers, the price has been raised ten cents a year, making the subscription rate a dollar and ten cents.

A GOOD deal of attention is being given to the effect of shearing stress in

decomposing salts of silver and other metals, and obtaining developable images by its action without the aid of light. The *British Journal* quotes at length from an article by Mr. Carey Lea in the *American Journal of Sciences*, and concludes thus: "There will be no difficulty in seeing how any shearing action on the surface of a dry plate should render it liable to decomposition, and, once decomposed in the manner suggested, developing will follow. We apprehend these discoveries will have important application to many photographic problems." In this connection it is interesting to note that Sir Isaac Newton, long before the discovery of photography, had devoted considerable study to the similar effects obtainable by rays of light and shearing stress. So far back as 1820 he said in his *Optics*: "Do not the rays of light in falling upon the bottom of the eye, excite vibrations in the tunica retina? which vibrations, being propagated along the solid fibres of the nerves into the brain, causes the sense of seeing." And, again, "When a man in the dark presses either corner of his eye with his finger, and turns his eye away from his finger, he will see a circle of colors like those in a peacock's tail. Do not these colors arise from such motions excited in the bottom of the eye by the pressure of the finger as at other times are excited there by light for causing vision? And when a man by a stroke upon his eye sees a flash of light, are not the like motions excited in the retina by the stroke?"

IN acknowledging the receipt of a photogram of the members of the House of Commons of Canada, for which the author, Mr. S. J. Jarvis, of Ottawa, received a medal and diploma