



# Amateur Photography



## Photographic Hints for the Amateur,

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**W**HEN gaslight printing is being done with the gas over the table, a chair may be put on the table, underneath the light, and the developing and fixing dishes placed under the chair, or pushed on one side when loading the frame. For printing, the frame may be put on the seat of the chair, and in this way one ensures each print being made at the same distance from the light. The shadow which the chair throws upon the table makes a perfectly safe light for working.

*Copying Hymns from a Hymn Book.*—This requires a camera that has a double extension and an anastigmat lens. When it is desirable to reproduce the type to the exact size, the quickest way is to approximately focus to the desired size, then if it is not quite large enough to rack out the lens a trifle, and then to focus by sliding the whole camera to and fro. When once the correct position has been found, a stick should be cut carefully, so that one end just touches the subject and the other the front of the camera, then whenever that particular lens is used, and the object is to be photographed to its own size, one simply has to focus, keeping the front of the camera and the object both touching the stick all the time.

To hold the copy flat, an ordinary printing frame is the best for the purpose.

*Slow plates* are the most satisfactory for copying purposes, owing to their fine grain and greater latitude in exposure.

*Under-exposure* is caused by making instantaneous pictures in places where the light is not sufficiently strong to impress the object or view upon the sensitive surface. It is detected in development by the image appearing very slowly and by the lack of detail in the shadows. In such an event it is desirable to transfer the film or plate to a weak developer and thus prolong development as much as possible.

*Over-exposure* is easily detected by the film darkening evenly as soon as placed in the developer. Over-exposed negatives are lacking in contrast and deep shadows. By acting promptly the negatives can be saved. Add a few drops of a 10 per cent. solution of bromide of potassium; bromide having been added to the developer, it will not do for any other negative, unless it is known to be over-exposed.

*In making gaslight prints* or lantern slides, the distance the printing frame is held from the source of light materially affects the time of exposure. Approximately the exposure varies as the square of the distance. Thus, if the correct exposure at 12 inches be 15 seconds, at 24 inches it will be 60 seconds.

It is best to have a standard distance from the light for printing from average negatives. Dense negatives should be printed nearer to the light to attain a soft result. Thin negatives should be

printed further from the light to get as plucky a print as possible.

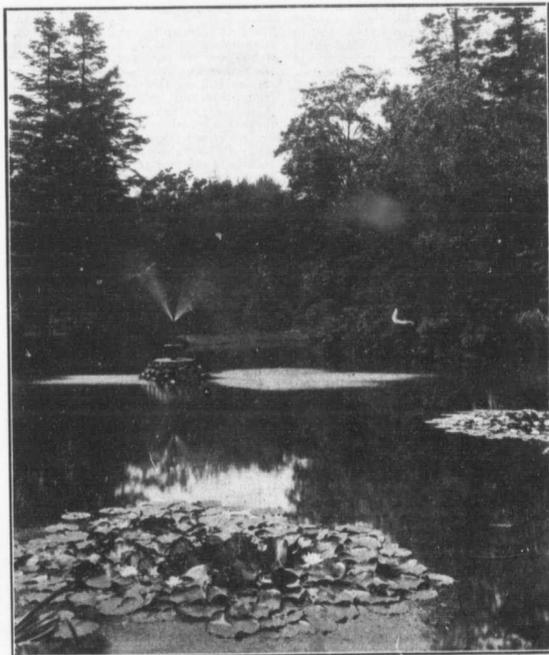
*The sensitive side* of all photographic papers can be recognized at once by the way the paper curls. However flat it may be on the whole, there is sure to be some little curl to it, the curl always being with the coated or sensitive side inwards, that is to say, the face is concave and the back convex.

*With the rapid plates* and lenses now available, the possibilities of home portraiture at night (without the use of flashlights) deserve more attention than they have as yet received. The modern dining room, generally illuminated by a central shaded cluster of electric bulbs or incandescent gas lights, affords conditions altogether favorable to success. In such a room we have a brilliantly illuminated, although confined, area, within which exposures of from two to six seconds will usually suffice to give a good negative of a figure subject within the light area. If the light has a colored

shade, the use of color sensitive plates is imperative. These plates will materially aid in shortening the exposure and in securing shadow detail. Necessarily, an anastigmat lens, with its large aperture, is a decided advantage in this work; but the amateur with an ordinary hand camera will find plenty of pictorial possibilities within his reach after the first few experiments.

*Failures.*—In making prints by the various processes failure is generally directly due to neglect of the working instructions given. Should the worker meet with difficulties, he may be certain that he has failed to meet some of the necessary conditions. Let him set to work again with the instructions in front of him, and success will be certain, for there is no simpler process than printing.

At this particular season of the year watch the temperature of your developer, especially your plate developer—it should register 65 degrees.



THE LILY POND IN BEACON HILL PARK, VICTORIA, B.C.