

Photography in Natural Colors.

Very early in the history of photography, in fact before Daguerre's discovery, the workers in this line conceived the idea of making pictures in the colors of nature, or as they are shown on the ground glass or screen of the camera obscura. Fugitive colored pictures were made which could be examined by weak light, but they were quickly destroyed when exposed to strong light. No means was ever found for fixing these colored images. Experiments looking forward to the discovery of some means of fixing and preserving the images have been carried forward without much success since the days of Daguerre.

Tricolor photography is not a strictly modern invention, but it has been perfected to a great extent within ten years, and very pleasing pictures can be produced by this process, although they do not present the ideal colored picture. Such pictures are produced by using three separate plates and taking the pictures through three separate colored screens—red, green and blue; a positive made from a negative taken through a red screen is transparent through all places where pure red is seen in the subject represented, also more or less in parts representing purple or violet and orange. A positive taken through the green screen will be transparent in the parts that are green in the subject. It will be transparent also in the parts representing yellow. In a similar way a picture taken through a blue screen is transparent to the part representing the blue portions of the subject.

According to one method, the prints from the negative are made upon sensitized gelatine, the gelatine carrying the color which is required to build up the portion of the picture demanding that color. When these three prints are made and superposed, they reproduce approximately the colors of the scenes represented.

A modification of this method, which results in truer colors, is accomplished by making three positive black and white prints representing the three colors and projecting them on a screen, where they are superposed, suitable colored screens being placed in front of each positive. Some very beautiful effects are produced by this method.

Lippmann, of Paris, not long since discovered a very simple and interesting method of producing photographs in color. He first produces a suitable negative, prints a positive from the negative, and backs up the positive with a film of mercury. The image is seen by reflected light, and the colors are produced by interference of light in a manner similar to Newton's rings.

Photo-Mechanical Work.

Among other developments in photography within very recent years may be mentioned several methods of reproducing photographic pictures in black and white, and other tints, by lithography, photogravure, collotype, half-tone and line etching. The collotype is a simple style of photographic reproduction. In making the collotype the glass which is to support the film is finely ground, and a solution of albumen and silicate of soda and water poured over it to form a foundation for the film. Upon this foundation is poured a solution of ammonium bichromate and gelatine in water. When the plate is dry it is exposed to the light through a negative and immersed for a time in cool water, after which it is dried in a bath of glycerine and water and coated with printing ink. The plate is then printed according to the method of the lithographic printer.

In photogravure the shadows are depressed in the plate, and the printing is done on practically the same principle as that of steel or copper-plate printing.