

taken, does it stain. But like all new things, it requires to be understood before the best results can be obtained. My own method of working is to give a full exposure and develop with a solution fairly strong in amidol, but well restrained. Density is very easily obtained, but almost any effect can be produced by modifying the exposure and the strength of the developer. It is easy with very little practice to get almost any desired result on either brand, but it may be mentioned that the "Ilford Slow" bromide tends to strong prints, and may, therefore, be preferable if the enlargements are to be produced from very thin negatives; whilst the "Rapid" paper, on the other hand, produces a softer print. In the case of negatives which are either abnormally soft or abnormally hard it will be well to bear this fact in mind.

The only practical drawback to the use of amidol is the fact that it readily oxidizes, and does not therefore keep well in solution. This, however, in practice, is not a very serious difficulty. The following is the method of working which I adopt myself: In one quart of distilled water I dissolve one pound of sulphite of soda, and two drachms of bromide of potassium. This stock solution will keep indefinitely. For use I pour out as many ounces as I require, adding the necessary quantity of amidol dry. For a normal developer, five grains of amidol to the ounce of solution may be used; if greater density is required, the quantity can be increased, or *vice versa*. Development takes less time than when ferrous-oxalate is used, the image appears quickly and with full detail, but time must be allowed

to obtain sufficient density. I prefer myself, as I have already said, to work rather slowly with plenty of bromide, for by having the developer well under control one can arrest development directly the desired effect is produced, there not being the same amount of reduction or going back in the fixing bath which so often occurs when ferrous-oxalate has been used.

Those who use the hydroquinone developer should not fail to bear in mind a little peculiarity it possesses, as if that is overlooked at this season of the year unexpected difficulties and trouble may arise. We refer to the fact that hydroquinone is rendered proportionately slower in its action in winter than any other developing agent. Of course all developers in cold weather have their action somewhat retarded, but with hydroquinone this retarding action of the cold is much more pronounced, and a *little* longer exposure must be given, and longer time allowed for the development.—*Photo Scraps*.

LETTER FROM EX-SECRETARY HAYES OF THE P. A. OF A.

SIR,—During the late Photographers' Convention two unfortunate mistakes occurred, both of which I can only attribute to the shortness of time in which the judges had to make the markings, and the awarding committee to make up the prize list. This delay was caused by the unfortunate discussion in regard to the method of appointing the judges. This thing has been brought up year after year since the Association started, but I thoroughly believe that no fairer way can be devised than the