

SCRAP ALBUM.

Anarchism being the scare of the day, the inhabitants of Perpignan have lately had a nice fright. The children at the communal school were playing in the courtyard when two young men, laden with odd packages, walked in, put down their bundles and said to each other, "This is just the place." The frightened children rushed to the schoolmistress, who came out in such a state of dismay that one of the men addressed her politely, saying that he had evidently disturbed the school, so he would come again at four o'clock. The schoolmistress rushed off to the town authorities declaring that the school was to be blown up at four o'clock, and a strong force of officials and police assembled to resist the Anarchists. The expected visitors arrived punctually to time, and turned out to be harmless travelling photographers, who made it their business to take groups of school-children.—*Buffalo Express.*

Among the latest inventions is an electrical thief-photographing process, by which anyone who attempts to open a drawer, or box, or room where he has no business will get himself photographed for his pains without his knowledge, so that he may be afterwards identified. A tobacconist had repeatedly missed cigars from his show case without being able to discover the thief. Hence he applied to an electrician to give him an apparatus which would take a portrait of anyone going to that case. An electro-magnet was so fastened to a match as to strike it against a rough surface whenever the electric circuit was completed, and by the light of the match an instantaneous photograph was taken, and immediately the shutter closed on the camera. On examination after the next disappearance of cigars, the portrait of two boys was discovered, and they were apprehended and sent to prison for the theft. Such an arrangement for photographing burglars without their knowledge—if that could be managed—would soon make burglary too risky even for the most astute professionals.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Arrangements have been made with a photographic expert of acknowledged ability, whereby our readers may have the benefit of his experience, through this column, absolutely free of charge. Queries must be received by the first of the month to ensure their appearance in the current issue.

J. G.—You will receive a circular giving full particulars, by addressing the Cramer Dry Plate Works, St. Louis, Mo.

ZEM.—Why don't you write the manufacturers direct? It is the better way.

COLORADO.—Thanks for the subscription. The duty on article you mention is 25%. Glad to hear business with you is so good.

Miss H.—We would recommend the 5x7 outfit as the better of the two. It is a most satisfactory size and one we hope to see more popular in Canada. We have always considered the 5x8 an "off" size. Either of the make of cameras you mention is good. Yes, certainly, use this column whenever you wish.

T, MONTREAL.—The trouble seems to us to be in the Hypo bath. The Hyposulphite of soda in general use is not very clean or pure; would advise you to try the "Walpole Hypo" which is almost chemically pure.

CERTIFICATES OF PROFICIENCY.

RULE 1.—Persons desirous of gaining our certificates of proficiency in any of the following branches, must send in not less than three mounted prints of any size (except where otherwise stated) and in any process.

RULE 2.—Full name and address of sender must be legibly written on the back of each photograph.

RULE 3.—Prints may be sent at any time, by any one, whether a subscriber to the JOURNAL or not.

RULE 4.—Anyone guilty of taking certificates for work that is not their own will be prosecuted for obtaining such certificates under false pretences.

RULE 5.—Certificates will be sent out, and the winners' names published in this JOURNAL, each month.

RULE 6.—No class distinction as to amateur or professional. Hereafter such distinction will not be made in our competitions.

RULE 7.—Winners of a third or second grade certificate are not barred from winning a first grade in a later examination.

RULE 8.—The subjects shall be as under:

RETOUCHING. Heads, cabinet size only, mounted on regular size cabinet cards. Three prints from different negatives before, and after, retouching.

POSING. Three mounted prints of single figure and three of groups, any size. The ease of pose, and gracefulness of the figures will be chiefly considered.

PRINTING. Competitors in the Portrait Class must send in at least three mounted plain prints, and six vignettes, from one negative—any size. Competitors on the Landscape printer's class must submit at least three mounted prints of each of three negatives—any size. Equality of prints will be the chief consideration. Any of the following processes may be adopted: Platinotype, bromide, collodio-chloride, gelatino-chloride, carbon, or albumen. Each set of prints must be made in one process only.

LIGHTING. Three portraits, any size, either head and bust, three-quarter figure or full length.

RULE 9.—These rules may be amended from time to time if considered necessary.

RULE 10.—The decision of the judges shall be final, and all photographs will become the property of THE CANADIAN PHOTOGRAPHIC JOURNAL.