

AMERICAN PHOTOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.

A regular meeting of this society, was held in the New York University, Monday evening, October 13th, with President Draper in the chair.

The minutes of the last meeting having been read, Messrs. D. T. Lawrence, of Newburg, and Geo. Bartlett, of New York, were elected to membership.

On account of the irregular appearance of the Treasurer, Messrs. Pike and Thomson were appointed Finance Committee, and Secretary Thompson was vested with authority to receive and disburse funds for the society.

PROFESSOR SEELEY read a letter from Mr. Waldack, who is now abroad. The letter, among several items, spoke of the use of bromides in collodion, as being of no advantage.

Secretary THOMPSON asserted, that without bromides in the collodion, the negatives were hard. This is especially the case in dry plates, where without bromide, it is almost impossible to get detail in foliage, &c.

Professor SEELEY had a couple of items to show the society. First, some prints on ordinary paper, from photozincographic plates; and second, several surgical photographs of membranes, &c., magnified about ten diameters. The samples of Photozincography, were by Mr. Hall, and the microscopic specimens by Dr. John Dean, of Boston.

President DRAPER, had photographed through the microscope, and found the great difficulty to be inaccuracy of focussing. This, he entirely overcame, by throwing the sunlight through a blue solution of sulphate of copper and ammonia. The focus obtained through this blue light is chemically and visually coincident.

Secretary THOMPSON showed several prints on albumenized paper. He called attention to the colour and tone, especially. Herein he claimed a new practice and discovery, inasmuch as he used nitrate of copper and zinc, in combination with his gold bath. He simply added to the usual solution of bi-carb. sodæ, some brass filings previously dissolved in nitric acid. The soda, which should be in great excess, neutralizes the nitric acid, leaving the copper and zinc in the solution. With a given amount of toning bath, containing this copper and zinc, he could tone 33 per cent. more surface than with the ordinary alkaline gold bath. He always added a pinch of salt to the toning bath, and fixed his prints in a fresh solution of hypos. sodæ 20 per cent. strong, to which has been added 5 per cent. of alcohol. The alcohol must be at least 95 per cent. Some of the prints shown, were from negatives taken with Mr. Sellers, at High Bridge, in the great trial of Wet versus Dry. Plenty of bromide was used in the collodion, and the detail in the shadows was consequently very great. He had brought for inspection also, the camera and changing-box used by him on that occasion.

This elicited much admiration, on account of its compact size, and the fine work it shows. This camera was invented by one of the workmen in the factory of C. Jabez Hughes, of London. It was brought to this country by Mr. Werge, to whose kindness the Secretary was indebted for its possession.

The lenses were of Ross's make, and the pictures proved their superiority. The angle included, was far greater than any portrait combination, and all things from five feet from the camera to the horizon, were in sharp focus.

Mr. PIKE said he found bromides of the greatest benefit in all dry plates. He had taken a negative of the Fireman's Monument, in Greenwood Cemetery, in bright sunshine. He had preserved every vein of the marble, and had not lost a leaf of the green foliage surrounding its base. This would be impossible to do without an excess of bromide in the collodion.

President DRAPER stated, the bromides were more sensitive to green colours than iodides. He found the iodide of silver is most affected by blue; the chloride of silver, by violet and indigo; and the bromide of silver by blue, green, and slightly by orange.

Secretary THOMPSON showed copies of the celebrated picture by Jacopo Chimenti, supposed by some, to be the discoverer of the stereoscopic vision. The members present, after much squinting, concluded, they "couldn't see it," and if "any other man" could see stereoscopic relief in the two samples before them, it must be "all in his eye."

Mr. PIKE had worked the milk and sugar process with success. He admired it very much for transparencies.

Mr. BURGESS said, that although he had not worked this new process himself, yet, should any of his friends begin in photo-

graphy under the auspices of a *dry nurse*, he should certainly recommend, as becoming their infant practice, the milk and sugar process. Its results had been seen, and spoke for themselves.

Victor PIARD presented to the society several very fine stereographs of green-house plants, and such like difficult subjects, for which he received the vote of thanks of the society.

Mr. BURGESS moved, that when we do adjourn, it be to meet on the second Monday of November, at *half-past seven o'clock* in the evening, instead of eight o'clock as at present.—Carried, and upon motion:

Adjourned as above.

F. F. THOMPSON, Secretary.

PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY OF MARSEILLES.

The opening meeting of this society for 1862, was held on Oct. 8th, M. GABRIEL, President of the society in the chair.

The PRESIDENT opened the meeting by expressing the satisfaction he felt, at seeing the work of the society resume its habitual course. Already the Photographic Society of Marseilles, by its zeal, its activity, and its initiative efforts, had acquired a place in the foremost rank of those societies devoted to the art of Niepce and Daguerrre. The first successes promised much for the future of the society. It would always give him pleasure to assist at its progress.

M. LEON VIDAL having thanked the President for the kind terms in which he had spoken of the society, continued as follows:—The year which has passed away, gentlemen and dear companions, has been for us a year of creation. We have had everything to commence, and, thanks to your intelligent efforts, we have succeeded. The Photographic Society of Marseilles has proved that it knew how to rise to the altitude of the mission it had imposed upon itself. It has never withheld its influence where it was likely to be of use. I will not speak to you of the numerous difficulties we have had to overcome. We struggled together. I do not consider it necessary to remind you of the various flattering testimonies which have appeared to reward your activity: you know them. The past, in one word, was ours; it is, therefore, with the future we have now to deal. Much has already been done; how much still remains to be done? our art is scarcely out of its cradle, it has all its career to accomplish—a career which will undoubtedly prove rich in marvellous discoveries, and in results and applications of increasing usefulness. I do not doubt but that you will have part in this progress of the future. Everything makes me hope—your aptitude, your initiative force, as well as the fortunate position of the society—gives the means of action. These means of action you will find in the "Union of Arts," recently inaugurated, and which progresses rapidly. You know the part therein assigned to photography. You will find there not only an exclusive centre, where you may meet on days other than those on which meetings take place, and where you may consult the especial publications, but there will also be a permanent exhibition of the products of our art, and a laboratory conveniently prepared, and all the applications of heliography. In the rooms, practical courses of study may be organised under our care. Here, my dear colleagues, are the conditions of success, which cannot fail to impart to our proceedings a new impulse. More than a year ago, we recapitulated the chief points of interest in the progress of our art. The direction indicated was as follows:—

Dry Collodion, rapid and instantaneous.

Enlargement, as perfect as possible.

Positive Image, obtained by a permanent process.

In these three lines is all the future of photography. I would urge upon my dear colleagues that they should receive with especial interest the labours directed towards the realisation of these improvements. Great progress has been made; and you know that the efforts of our experimentalists are incessantly directed towards accomplishing still greater results. Permit me before the society resumes its proceedings, in your name to renew our invitation to the sympathy of the photographic world. The numerous communications which have been sent to us up to this time, are a manifest proof of the influence which is inspired by our zeal and our impartiality. The good traditions of our society will be perpetuated; and it will be our honour to have contributed to the progress of an art we love, and which holds a distinguished place in the rank of useful inventions.

The SECRETARY then proposed a modification in the rule