

which is very pleasing; but we may mention here that those who object to carbonate of soda in the toning bath, are generally portraitists, and it is a fact that the mode of treatment which gives good results with prints from intense landscape negatives, does not always do so with those from thin portrait negatives.—  
[Ed.]

### Talk in the Studio.

**PHOTOGRAPHIC PIRACY.**—We regret to learn that a system of wholesale piracy has just been discovered, in which the exquisite photographs of the International Exhibition and its art treasures have been copied to a large extent. The vendors have, we understand, given up their stock, and agreed to pay costs and damages, to avoid prosecution. The producer's name has also been given up, and it is the intention of the Stereoscopic Company to proceed with the utmost rigour of the law, so as to deter others from these disgraceful piracies.

**PHOTOGRAPHIC REPRODUCTIONS OF SCULPTURE.**—A series of fifty photographs of Italian sculptures of the Middle Ages, and the time of the revival of art, selected and arranged from the collection in the South Kensington Museum, by Mr. J. C. Robinson, will be published in a folio volume next month. The photographs have been executed by Mr. C. Thurston Thompson.

**PHOTOGRAPHIC PROFITS.**—The *Times* says:—"We are glad to say that Mr. Story, the American Artist, has now given his consent to photographs being taken of his two noble figures 'the Cleopatra' and 'the Sybil.' Without these, the photographic record of the sculpture of the exhibition would have been sadly incomplete. One may judge of the popularity of these photographs of statues from the fact that the copies of the 'Reading Girl' have had, and still have, such an enormous sale that the profits realized on this picture alone would more than repay the £2,000 paid to the Commissioners by the Stereoscopic Company for the right of photographing. Yet the orders for copies of 'the Cleopatra' and 'the Sybil' are larger than this again." We fear that large as the sales have been, that these are somewhat random figures. We apprehend that Mr. Nottage would be glad if the writer could, to use a popular phrase, prove his words.

**"CLEARING UP" NEGATIVES.**—Mr. Osborne's plan of "clearing up" negatives of engravings, &c., has excited some interest, and has been tried with much success and satisfaction by several photographers largely engaged in reproduction. It is perhaps desirable, in order to prevent the misconception into which a contemporary has fallen, misleading others, to repeat our information derived from Mr. Osborne, that after the negative has been treated with a dilute iodine solution to convert any slight foggy deposit into an iodide of silver, it should then be well washed, and submitted to the action of a dilute cyanide solution, to remove the deposit on the shadows, which has been converted into iodide. This is necessary before proceeding to intensify, where the utmost density and the utmost transparency are required, as in maps, engravings, &c. The process referred to by our contemporary, of using a solution of iodine before applying pyro and silver, is very old, having been published as early as 1854, and very useful for ordinary negatives we have regularly practised it for many years. But the process of Mr. Osborne is novel, both in purpose and practice, and has reference chiefly to reproduction negatives requiring pure blacks and whites; and it is necessary to remove all trace of deposit from the transparent parts of the negatives before intensifying, in order to secure sufficient contrast.

### To Correspondents.

**A. R. P.**—The extent to which a bath of hyposulphite of soda may be used for fixing positives on paper with impunity, is somewhat difficult to decide, and the skilful photographer must be guided largely by observation and experience, as the result is affected by a variety of circumstances. The quantity of chloride of silver dissolved by hyposulphite of soda may be roughly stated at a third of its weight, but to make this knowledge available it is necessary to know the quantity of unreduced chloride of silver in your prints, which is very difficult to get at. Read the papers of Mr. G. Price in recent numbers. Mr. Hardwich says, that one ounce of hypo dissolved in six ounces of water, will fix forty stereo prints, or about two sheets of paper; but for safety he recommends that it should only be used for half that quantity, as hyposulphite is cheap, and it is well to keep on the safe side. 2. We do not know of any one resident in Manchester who paints

backgrounds. 3. A negative bath may be neutralized either by freshly precipitated oxide of silver, or by means of bi-carbonate of soda. **HOHO.**—The best mode of preparing an ammonia-nitrate bath for albumenized paper with which we are familiar, is, first make a 60 or 80 grain bath, add ammonia until the precipitate first formed is re-dissolved, then add nitric acid drop by drop, testing in the mean time until it will only just restore the colour of reddened litmus paper. It is, in this state, just on the alkaline side of neutrality. The paper must be floated rapidly: less than a minute will be sufficient.

**JEDDYSON.**—Our remarks in the criticism on photographs of the Exhibition had no reference whatever to an article in another journal to which you refer. As stated in a foot note our remarks had been written and waiting for insertion long before the other article was published. The coincidence was singular, but still only a coincidence. Had we been writing a reply to any article we should have mentioned it, and not have referred to it by indefinite inuendo.

**T. R.**—We must consider your proposal before giving it publicity. Personally we could not attend to the matter, but will ascertain if any one connected with our publishing office could undertake the duty. To make the plan of any value a register ought to be kept at the office for subsequent reference, and we fear that would involve trouble that might not be properly carried out. We certainly do not see that the registrar can possibly refuse forms sent by post, although he may have the power of refusing stamps as payment. We will make some enquiry on the subject.

**T. P. E.**—We think it possible that the plan suggested in diagram No. 2, which allows a little light to fall upon the background from the roof behind the sitter, might be tried with advantage; but as we have not seen it done, we can only speak conjecturally. The plan suggested in the fourth diagram, we should think, would answer well, as it is good in principle. The only front light it gives you is quite above the sitter. No. 2 might be tried first: if any objection were found, we think that No. 4 would certainly do.

**JACKSON BROTHERS.**—The parcel of fine photographs received. We shall examine and notice them shortly.

**W. DOWNEY.**—We shall have pleasure in seeing you.

**CASSAN.**—Albumenized paper prepared on an ammonia-nitrate bath does not keep long without discolouration. The less alkaline the solution the longer the paper will keep. If you add a few more drops of nitric acid, taking care to keep the bath very slightly alkaline. Some samples of paper, however, discolour in a few hours, even when excited on the ordinary bath.

**DATHUS.**—We are not aware that there is any especial agent in London for Jamin's lenses; they are sold by all dealers. There is not, that we know of, any printed instructions for their use. A little examination will give you the best idea of the purposes of the different parts if you bear in mind these hints: when complete, with the central lens in its place, it has its shortest focus, and most rapid action, and covers the smallest plate. When the central lens is removed, an ordinary portrait lens remains, working slower and covering a larger plate. The next combination is more complicated. You must unscrew the entire combination from the flange, removing the hood from the front lens, withdrawing the tube and front lens from the outer mounting, and screwing on the extra lens to the end of the tube; the front lens is then reversed in position and screwed into the flange, so that it becomes the back combination, and the extra lens the front one. The hood is then screwed on to the part of the mounting that originally screwed into the flange, and in a reversed position. This gives a lens of still longer focus; and finally, the first lens only may be used as a single view lens. There is a multiplicity of purposes, but we cannot assure you that they are all equally well effected. A *multum in parvo* lens generally sacrifices efficiency to comprehensiveness.

**ASTON.**—Many of your prints are very fine, the copy of a Daguerreotype is especially good. The double printing is very effective. You must guard against a little hardness, arising probably from a little over-intensifying. We should think a frame of your best might be sent to the Exhibition.

**DRY COLOURS.**—A correspondent, whose letter is at the moment mislaid, asked, if card portraits might be tinted with dry powder colours? A very pleasing effect may be obtained by skilfully tinting albumenized prints with dry colours; but with this drawback, that the pictures must be covered with glass, as the colours would otherwise rub off. The usual method of tinting card portraits is with water colours.

**MR. WARNER, of ROSS,** desires to call attention to an advertisement announcing a slight advance in his charges for enlarging negatives, which he finds imperative, to make the undertaking remunerative. He asks for our opinion on the reasonableness of the charges. So far as we can judge, the prices are only fair and reasonable remuneration for good work.

**MELBOURNE.**—We regret that we cannot, with justice to our readers, insert further correspondence on a question so purely personal as Mr. Osborne's claim to priority in his process of photolithography. After due examination of those claims by a committee appointed by Government, and by another committee appointed by Mr. Osborne's opponents, his claims were decided as substantially valid. After our own examination, we come to the same conclusion. You appear to be imperfectly acquainted with some facts, with which we are familiar. But, in any case, the question is not of sufficient public interest to justify us in further filling our columns with its discussion. You will find some remarks on the subject in an article in the present number. There is one remark in your letter, on which we offer a word of comment. You deplore a common tendency in Englishmen to worship success. It is not an uncommon thing to condemn the tendency, as you do. We do not join in that condemnation. To honour success, is merely another form of honouring merit. Men do not honour success if they know it to be gained by unfair means; but success is, generally, more or less, the result of some kind of merit, and whilst merit is not always honoured, because it is not always a self-evident thing, success is honoured as the general voucher for merit.

**J. S. H.**—The slides received. We are much interested, and shall be glad to hear more on the subject.

**MR. OSBORNE'S** paper, continuation of Mr. Price's article on "Albuminate of Silver," and several other articles and letters in type, and answers to correspondents, in our next.

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