

THE PHOTOGRAPHIC NEWS.

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THE NEW IRON DEVELOPER.

As the double salt of iron and ammonia seems likely to become a favourite developer, a few more words on the subject may not be uninteresting. We have, in the first place, a slight reclamation to make. The suggestion for its use is almost universally accredited, by the photographic press at home and abroad, to M. Meynier. This gentleman called attention to its use at a meeting of the Marseilles Photographic Society, held on the 8th of October, 1862. Two months previous to that date, this salt had been recommended as a developer by the PHOTOGRAPHIC NEWS. On page 374 of our last volume, published on the 8th of August, 1862, the nature, properties, and manufacture of the salt are fully described, and its use as a developer in place of the ordinary protosulphate recommended. That the suggestion might be quite original with M. Meynier we do not at all doubt, nor that it has received a considerable impetus from his recommendation. The matter is not a very important one to reclaim; but since the salt will very probably come into general use, it is worth while placing these facts, as to its first application, on record.

As to its value as a developing agent, opinions generally seem, as we have said, in its favour; but as to the precise amount of excellence there appears to be some uncertainty. In our own hands it has a slight advantage over the ordinary iron developer in giving cleaner shadows and intenser lights; but we have not found any palpable difference in the length of exposure required by the plate in the camera caused by its use: some of our friends, on the contrary, are decidedly of opinion that it permits a shorter exposure in the camera, and yields a very harmonious image with such short exposure. The unquestionable advantage it possesses is that the crystals, even when kept in loosely corked bottles, do not become per-oxidized. In solution, however, a small portion of a per-salt is formed, so that the developer is not deprived of the qualities, regarded as valuable by many photographers, which the presence of a small amount of the per-sulphate produces.

The double sulphate is very easily prepared; two parts of sulphate of iron and one part of sulphate of ammonia are dissolved in, say four parts of water. The solution is then gently evaporated, over a water bath is best, until signs of crystallization are seen, when the vessel is put aside to cool without disturbance, when the double salt is formed in beautifully clean and clear crystals. For those of our readers who are wishful to try its effect and have not the opportunity of procuring it, the manufacture is a simple matter, and both the salts of which it is formed may be had of any chemist. For experiment it is not necessary to crystallize the double salt, the solution itself may be filtered, and with the proper addition of acetic acid, used at once.

As regards its energy as a developer, it must be borne in mind that, theoretically at least, the double salt is not so active as the same weight of ordinary protosulphate, thirty

grains of the double salt being equivalent in energy to about twenty of the ordinary protosulphate.

As we have received many inquiries as to the price of the double salt of iron and ammonia, and where it may be obtained, we may mention that it will shortly be kept by photographic chemists generally, and sold at a price not much higher than the ordinary protosulphate of iron. We may also add that we have recently received from Bailey and Son a very fine sample, which is put up in pound bottles, which are sold for eighteen pence each.

AMMONIA IN PRINTING.

From recent American intelligence it would appear that the *dernier mot* on the value of ammonia in printing has not yet been spoken. Mr. H. T. Anthony announces a discovery that by using a solution of moist oxide of silver in a solution of nitrate of ammonia, for exciting albumenized paper, an enormous saving of silver can be effected, whilst rapid printing, easy toning, and good results are also secured. Mr. F. F. Thompson states in the *Amateur Photographic Print* that he has seen some prints by Mr. Anthony on paper sensitized with a silver bath equivalent to *five grains* of nitrate of silver to the ounce of water, and that they were in all respects excellent.

Mr. Anthony, writing on the subject to *Humphrey's Journal*, says:—

The solution used by me could not have been of the strength of twenty grains of nitrate of silver to the ounce of water, yet with it I made a very excellent print which toned very readily, yielding fine black tones and pure whites. The paper is, besides, very sensitive and prints very quickly. My chemist is now making an examination of the matter, and we shall soon have some of the compound for sale. In the meantime I would suggest to photographers to try a 2-drachm solution of nitrate of ammonia, to which as much moist oxide of silver should be added as it could dissolve.

It will be seen that no allusion is here made to the proportion of chloride used in preparing the paper, a somewhat important element in the question. The subject is, however, interesting, and we shall duly apprise our readers of the further developments of this subject.

AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHY IN AMERICA.

AMATEUR photography has been progressing of late amongst our friends in the States. In point of numbers they are still, probably, far behind this country; but what is lacking in numbers is made up in enthusiasm. Amongst other illustrations of this enthusiasm, we may mention the recent establishment of a periodical, entitled *The Amateur Photographic Print*, the editor, printer, and publisher of which is our esteemed correspondent, Mr. F. F. Thompson, the late Secretary of the American Society. Three numbers of the periodical are now before us, which are full of fun and in-