

THE PHOTOGRAPHIC NEWS.

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THE FORTHCOMING EXHIBITION MEETING OF THE PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY.

SOME months ago it was announced that the Council of the Photographic Society had resolved to devote the first meeting of the winter session to the examination of such photographic products of the season as might be contributed for the purpose of forming an evening exhibition. We are glad to be able to announce that arrangements have been made for making an excellent display of all pictures sent for the purpose of exhibition.

The library of King's College (the usual meeting-room of the Society) not being accessible before the usual hour of meeting, and not being well suited for the purposes of an exhibition, arrangements have been made to hold the meeting in the Gallery of the Architectural Union, No. 9, Conduit Street, Regent Street, and the excellent room thus secured will be at the service of the Council early in the day, so that the pictures may be duly arranged before the time of the meeting. It has been arranged, however, in order to give time for a full examination of the pictures, that the exhibition shall open at seven o'clock in the evening instead of at eight as usual.

To give the fullest interest to such an exhibition, all photographers are invited to contribute, whether they belong to the Society or not; and whilst the original object of the exhibition was to obtain a display of the photographic results of the season, since the object has been enlarged it is hoped that photographers will send any pictures of interest which they may possess, whether they have been produced during the season or not, so long as they aid in illustrating the present position of our art.

As in many cases a natural indisposition may be felt to take much trouble or go to much expense in framing pictures for the display, which is limited to one evening, it has been resolved that unframed pictures are eligible for exhibition. It is scarcely necessary to remark, of course, that framed prints are desirable, the framing and glazing not only adding much to the general good effect of such a display, but materially aiding in improving the appearance of the pictures themselves. It should be remembered, moreover, that as unframed pictures sent for exhibition must necessarily be pinned up against the walls for display, the mounts will suffer a little in the process. Collections of prints in portfolios will add materially to the interest of the exhibition, and we shall hope to see many contributions in this form.

Although not so announced, the meeting will be practically a *conversazione* of a pleasant and social character, and the gathering will doubtless be a large one. All members, and all contributors who are not members, are invited to bring friends with them, and ladies will be especially welcome. It should be distinctly understood that as this is an

ordinary meeting of the Society, although devoted to a purpose of more than ordinary interest, special invitations or tickets will not be sent out or required. The official notification in the last number of the Society's Journal is to be regarded as the invitation to members, contributors, and friends, and this invitation we are authorized to repeat. We hope that every member who can contribute will do so, and that all members will feel themselves concerned to induce friends to contribute anything which will increase the interest and pleasure of the evening.

This is the first experiment of this kind, and we hope it will prove sufficiently successful to induce an annual repetition. There can be no question that the regular exhibitions, for many years held under the auspices of the Photographic Society, were at once conducive to the progress of the art and to the pleasure of photographers. Few things are more improving than an opportunity for the comparative examination of the works of the men who have acquired distinction for various phases of excellence. Many photographers will feel that the opportunity of showing their pictures to brother photographers, and examining theirs in return, is in itself an incentive to the production of something worthy of display. In such an exhibition as that now contemplated, in which competition for honours is not introduced, the only objection we have ever heard urged against photographic exhibitions is removed. No possible tincture of jealousy, or of the acrimony which too frequently, unfortunately, characterizes competition for medals, can here be engendered. Each will here enter into such friendly rivalry in excellence

"As brother should a brother dare
To gentle proof and exercise of arms."

Enlargements of all kinds by the solar camera, and from enlarged negatives—plain, touched, and coloured—will, we hope, form a feature of the evening. We shall be glad to see a good display of cabinet portraits. The advance in architectural photography consequent on the improved facilities for such work afforded by the optician will doubtless ensure a fine collection of this branch of the art. In landscape photography we shall look for examples of the various dry processes which have attracted attention during the summer. Some of our enthusiastic portraitists resolved early in the season that before its close they would fairly rival the best French portraitists. We shall look with interest for results in this direction.

In the official announcement no allusion is made to the exhibition of apparatus; but, we believe, facilities will be given for the due display of all inventions and novelties, with illustrations of the results to be obtained; and we hope to see many contributions of this kind. In fact, anything which can contribute to illustrate fairly the present status of the art, either in its facilities or its results, either in its scientific or its pictorial aspects, ought to find a place in an exhibition of this kind, which will, we hope, be the first