

has of late been very tardy; and we cannot but side with the optician, who, when he is asked by the photographer for a quicker-acting lens, replies, "My lens is a good one, it is your plates that should be more sensitive," thus referring to the chemist the solution of the all-important problem. Our present collodion process with bromo-iodide of silver and iron development is not so sensitive in its action as the bromide of silver collodion with alkaline development. By the employment of an iron developer a much shorter exposure is necessary than with a weak pyrogallic acid solution, and in the same ratio is gallic acid to pyrogallic acid. Can we not discover a substance, or even several substances, that are to sulphate of iron what that compound is to gallic acid? Or must we look for other silver compounds, or for some other totally different material? Bichromate of potash has in the printing process proved itself to be three times as sensitive as chloride of silver; is it impossible to find a salt which is three, or even ten, times as sensitive as iodide or bromide of silver?

Proceedings of Societies.

NORTH LONDON PHOTOGRAPHIC ASSOCIATION.

THE usual monthly meeting of this Society was held in Myddelton Hall, on the evening of Wednesday, November 4th, Mr. G. WHARTON SIMPSON in the chair.

The minutes of a previous meeting were read and approved, and the following gentlemen elected members of the Society: Messrs. Maltby, Leunig, F. Hunt, J. Marnham, A. Short, G. Colling, Thomas Hawkin.

Mr. WOODBURY exhibited some fine examples of his relief printing process, consisting of 10 by 8 reproductions of paintings issued by Goupil and Co., which were much admired.

The CHAIRMAN called attention to some fine enamels by Mr. Henderson, brought by Mr. Taylor. He remarked that the enamels of M. Lafon de Camarsac had always been regarded as types of perfection in photographic enamelling; but some of Mr. Henderson's came very little short indeed, if any, of the excellence of the Parisian photographer, and he thought it matter for congratulation that such first-class results were produced in this country in a branch of the art hitherto much neglected.

No paper having been provided, the meeting resolved itself into a conversazione, in the course of which some amusement was excited by an extract from a daily paper, to which a member called attention, in which some curious statements were made on boiling and baking as tests for permanence in photographs.

The proceedings then terminated.

EDINBURGH PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY.

THE eighth annual meeting of the Edinburgh Photographic Society took place on the 4th November current.

The Council's Report, which is a very satisfactory one, states that twenty subjects have been brought before the Society during the year, including three of the popular meetings for which the Society is famed. The number of members added to the roll during the year has been thirty-five, which gives a present muster roll of 184, excluding thirteen who have died or left the Society from various causes. Six new members were balloted for and elected unanimously during the evening.

The following office bearers were appointed for the ensuing year:—

President.—Sheriff Hullard.

Vice-Presidents.—Messrs. George H. Slight, James G. Tunny.

Hon. Secretary.—Mr. William H. Davies.

Hon. Treasurer.—Mr. John Hurry.

Curator.—Mr. John Peat.

Auditor.—Mr. A. J. Niven.

Assisted by a Council of twelve gentlemen as under:—

James Blackadder, Mr. W. D. Clark, Mr. Hugh Rose, Mr. John Scott Moncrieff, Mr. Archd. Burns, Mr. Jas. Bryson, Mr. Jas. Ross, Mr. John McNau, Rev. D. T. K. Drummond, Mr. Norman Macbeth, Mr. J. D. Marwick, Mr. Richard G. Muir.

The business sketched out for the next session promises to be full of interest, and we shall take care to keep our readers apprised of the various meetings as they occur. One feature of great interest in this Society is its so-called popular evenings, at which, by the aid of a powerful oxyhydrogen lantern, the pictures of the members and others are exhibited to large audiences. The idea is worth the attention of some of the more energetic societies.

Correspondence.

A PHOTOGRAPHER'S RELIEF FUND.

SIR,—I am willing to subscribe a pound or two, or more, a year to such a fund as soon as a satisfactory committee be formed. But who are the proper persons to subscribe to and receive from such a fund? in short, who are photographers? In this town the profession is represented thus: Branch of a London firm, painter and glazier, shoemaker, hairdresser, glover, milkman, lodginghouse keeper, legitimate photographer. So you see there are eight likeness shops in this town; but I cannot count more than three or four persons who ought to be designated photographers—one who has practised sixteen years, and two or three others who are employed as operators. Such as stationers, chemists, hairdressers, &c., who add to their business that of a photographer, certainly ought to be excluded.

My suggestion is simply this: Let one in every town who has been long known to some London house in the trade confer with his brother legitimate photographers in his neighbourhood, with a view to ascertaining their feelings on the subject, and communicate the result to yourself, for the purpose of its being laid before any gentlemen who might be willing to constitute a committee. Should you think my plan worth consideration, perhaps you will give this a place in your valuable Journal.

I have only to add that I would at once confer with the one or two working photographers in this town who I consider to be the only persons who ought to subscribe to, with a view of participating in, such a fund.—Yours obliged,

November 9th, 1868.

W. MATTHEWS.

[Our correspondent very aptly illustrates some of the practical difficulties which, as we have suggested, require consideration, and which render necessary an examination and a full discussion of the question in its practical bearings as a preliminary to organization. We shall have pleasure in giving publicity to practical suggestions.—Ed.]

SIR,—The matter of forming a Relief Fund or Provident Society has once more become a matter of consideration. As a provincial photographer I can only recapitulate what has been said. I shall have great pleasure in aiding or assisting in any good cause that tends to benefit my fellows of the profession. Be he artist, photographer, operator, assistant, or printer, all within our circle, or linked to our profession, should have our warmest sympathies. Why should we raise any objection, to exclude any connected with the art? I may say, nothing like the time present. We cannot commence too soon in any good cause, so let us at once give our names in to you, Mr. Editor, and make a commencement, and those desirous of forming such can then have a meeting called; and if we reside out of London, we can pen our thoughts and send them, and have a voice in the matter. I would suggest a provident society on the same principle as the Oddfellows; it would be more independent for its members. I would not object to a special fund for emergencies or particular cases; and I feel fully confident we could have a photographic bazaar, and enlist the ladies to assist us. I am sure, Mr. Editor, if we only commence, we shall succeed. However, let us try; let some of your generous readers suggest a subscription as entrance money or voluntary free gift; I am quite willing to chime in and say yea with the rest. Hoping that this time the matter will not be lost sight of, I ask all connected with photography who can afford it to come forward and tender their mite in such a cause, or send their names for membership; and, Mr. Editor, I feel fully confident you will be most happy to publish anything any subscriber would suggest for the future welfare and progress of a Photographer's Provident Society or Relief Fund.