

THE PHOTOGRAPHIC NEWS.

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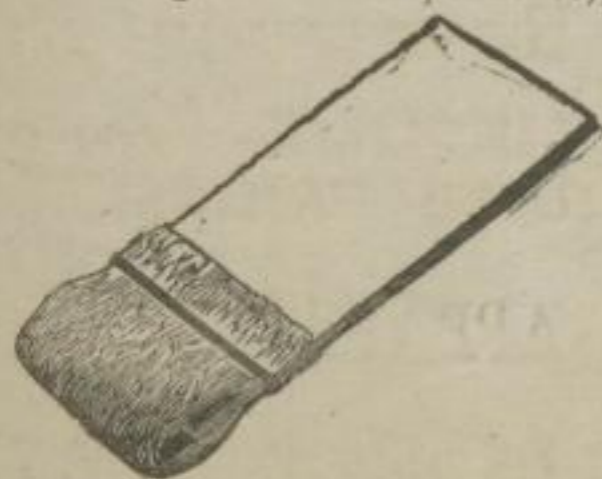
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THE BLANCHARD BRUSH FOR APPLYING SOLUTIONS.

ALLUSION has been made recently in various articles, letters, and reports, to a useful little instrument which has been designated the "Blanchard brush." This contrivance, which combines in an eminent degree simplicity and efficiency, is of very great value in applying various kinds of photographic solutions. It was originally employed by Mr. Valentine Blanchard in applying both silver solutions and developing solutions to enlargements on paper. Besides its general convenience in evenly spreading the solution, it was found of special value in the process of development, as it gave to the operator a kind of local power in controlling the action of the developer. Where a mass of shadow required great depth to give force to the picture, the energy of the development could be increased by a little manipulation, and a little nitrate of silver added with the brush. Its latest use has been in connection with the application of preliminary coating of dilute albumen to glass plates. All difficulty in spreading the albumen solution, usually a troublesome operation, vanishes when this brush is employed. One sweep of the brush, which may be made of any width, covers the plate evenly, without irregularity, bubbles, or any kind of drawback.

Although it has been described before, and is very simple in construction, we have reason to think that it is not so generally known as it might be. Mr. Blanchard has, therefore, favoured us with a brief description, which we subjoin, together with a diagram, making the matter quite clear. Mr. Blanchard says:—

"A short time ago Lieut. Abney, in speaking of my method of albumenizing plates, spoke of the simple contrivance I employed, as the 'Blanchard brush.' Since then I have had several applications from wholesale houses, who have imagined it an article manufactured for sale, and so many letters asking for further particulars, that in self-defence (for I hate lengthened correspondence), I have sent



a little sketch which will explain at once this very simple contrivance. All that is needed is a strip of glass two or

three inches broad, and four or five inches long. On one end is fastened a loop of swans'-down calico—a cotton material, twilled on one side, and with a long plush-like nap on the other. It is to be obtained at any large draper's. The nap side must be outwards; two thicknesses will be found better than one; and the loop can be readily fastened to the end of the glass by a small elastic band.

"This brush will be found much more useful in the calcotype process for enlargements than the 'Buckle brush,' for it can be made of any width, and the silver and gallic acid solutions can be spread with the most perfect uniformity by its aid."

SURREPTITIOUS PORTRAITS.

AMONGST the many sins for which photography has been made answerable, not the least, we fear, will be that series in which it is charged with giving birth to that green-eyed monster which separates loving hearts, desolates homes, and fills the divorce court. The surreptitious possession of photographs has already at divers times led to lovers' quarrels, and occasionally to domestic broils, and it has been alleged by wicked persons that it is not an uncommon thing on race courses for itinerant photographers to secure positives of groups in carriages, and sell them at a high price to those concerned in destroying the evidence they furnish. A case recently came before the Lambeth Police Court in which the itinerant photographer appears as the author of dire mischief, by photographing a group in the street, who had met and incidentally stopped for a few moments to speak. Here is the narrative as we find it in the daily press.

LAMBETH.—A PHOTOGRAPHIC DIFFICULTY.—Ann Tasker summoned her husband for using threatening language towards her.

From the statement of the solicitor for the complainant, it appeared the parties had been married some six years, the woman being twenty-five years younger than defendant. A few weeks ago she went to the Borough in company with a young girl who was in her service. The girl entered a shop to purchase a hat, leaving Mrs. Tasker outside, when a young man named Blowers came up, and, knowing plaintiff, stopped for a few moments to speak. During this period an itinerant photographic artist came along with his apparatus, and before plaintiff and Blowers were aware of it they had their photographs taken. The artist then came up, and so delighted was Blowers with the likenesses that he purchased a copy, and gave the same to plaintiff. She took it home and put it in a drawer, where her husband found it, and declared it had been done at Margate or Ramsgate on the sands, where he accused her of having gone with Blowers. Ever since that he had shown a very jealous disposition, and had threatened to dash out her brains with a poker.

The legal gentlemen on both sides, after a consultation