

points which deserve a few remarks. The use of dry plates—so long the sole privilege of amateurs—is now common among professionals also, and, although not as yet productive of any good, this commercial application of our pet idea must ultimately bring to greater perfection the plates themselves and their development. Of course we speak now of the quick or so-called 'instantaneous' plates. Studying lately the directions given by one maker (Marion) for the development of the 'Victoria' plates, I was struck by the stress laid upon the necessity for weighing and measuring most accurately the quantities of pyro., ammonia, and bromide. I have found no necessity for such scrupulous exactness. All gelatine plates may be developed by the same solutions and the same strength. Experience is worth a hundred formulæ, and is more reliable. The question of light used in the dark room is also worthy of consideration. I have experimented on almost every variety of quick and other dry plates, and have never fogged one except by over-exposure, and I use no shade save the bare gas flame of an ordinary burner, turned low, of course, but sufficiently high to see comfortably. With a coloured light the state of the developer cannot be well noted, and its discolouration often spoils and stains a good negative. It is certain, too, that by a subdued white light one can judge better how to proceed than by a stronger coloured light. Lamps as usually constructed allow white light to escape as well as that intended, and the reflection of the former from walls and ceilings is quite as likely to fog a plate as direct rays from a gas or other flame. We have to congratulate ourselves upon the increased activity of many of our members working in the direction of rapidity; but it would be a great pity if the old processes—tried and proved successful—were lost sight of in the present mania for instantaneity. There are circumstances under which gelatine fails to give the best results; and as yet it can hardly hold its own against the old collodio-bromide or albumen methods, over which we have more control, and in using which we have more certainty of satisfaction."

After touching upon the art aspects of photography, and expressing a hope that the time would soon come when amateurs could have their negatives printed by a mechanical process, the President said:—

"In conclusion, I have to call attention to our position (or want of it) in the last *soiree* of the amalgamated societies at St. George's Hall in December. It was thought (and I am as much to blame as any) that, having no novelties to show, it would be better not to be exhibitors at all. I confess, however, that to me, at least, this absence of a concentrating or combining force made one lose one's *personal* interest in the affair, and that it would have been better to have had even a poor show than to have had none at all. Let us look forward to the next meeting, that we may, by our results during the year, teach our townsfolk that our Association is as full of life as any in Liverpool. Our more social indoor and outdoor meetings have, as Hans Breitman said, 'nefer cum to a het dis year!' This is to be regretted, though not to be wondered at, considering the bad weather we have had. But some look back with longing hearts to our *own soirees*, and wish for a repetition of that pleasant gathering which welcomed lately a brother society. Why should not these be repeated? The year 1879 has been an unfortunate one for all. Let us hope that in 1880 the clouds will clear away and the sun shine the more brightly for our late season of darkness, and that it may be a successful one to all of us, photographically and otherwise."

Considerable discussion followed the reading of the address, chiefly relating to the light used in developing plates; and, in reply to a question,

The PRESIDENT said that he developed about four or five feet from the gas flame, which was turned down low, but still sufficient to see well by.

Several members doubted the advisability of using a naked light in their dark-room, many using non-actinic silk or paper in preference to ruby glass when the light was artificial.

The Rev. H. J. PALMER observed that while he could not endorse all the President said in regard to using a naked gas-light, he (Mr. Palmer) liked to have plenty of light to work by, and had found that orange paper of several thicknesses, according to the strength of the light, was sufficient to prevent fogging both during the making and developing the gelatine plates.

Mr. W. H. KIRKBY then read a description of and exhibited his rapid shutter.

BOLTON PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY.

The monthly meeting was held at the Baths, on 5th February. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. Resolved that the accounts of Messrs. Parkinson (rent) and Blackshaw (printing) be paid.

The SECRETARY informed the meeting that Mr. Chadwick, of Manchester, could not attend, and having read his communication, stated that one of the members (Mr. Wigglesworth) would be present at half-past eight o'clock to read a paper on his "Haps and Mishaps in Photography."

A communication by Mr. W. J. CHADWICK to the Photographic Journal of 30th January, on the "Formation of Photographic Societies," was then read by the Secretary.

As Mr. WIGGLESWORTH failed to put in an appearance, the meeting resolved itself into a *conversazione*, during which a discussion took place upon Platinum Printing (specimens shown by the Secretary), the desirability of providing the Society with a developing tank, and the album for the reception of prints required by Rule 17; finally breaking up at 9 p.m., after a most pleasant evening.

PHOTOGRAPHERS' BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION.

The annual general meeting of this Association was held on January 28th, the chair being occupied by W. S. BIRD, Esq.

The business of the evening was commenced by reading the minutes of the previous meeting, which were confirmed. The balance-sheet having been read and adopted, the Secretary read his report as follows:—

"Gentlemen,—In submitting my report I am pleased to say the balance standing to the credit of the Association has been increased from £57 16s. 3d. to £74 9s., showing an increase of £16 12s. 9d. The donations and subscriptions from honorary members do not reach last year's amount, owing, doubtless, to the fact that the assistants have not at present testified their willingness to help themselves or their more unfortunate brethren by joining the Association. Should they adopt that course, there would be no reason to complain of laxity of support from employers and others interested in the profession. The subscriptions from ordinary members for the year were £15 9s. 6d., and the working expenses £20 11s. 9d. Although the former is not equal to the latter, it is the nearest approach since the founding of the Society that members' subscriptions have made towards meeting expenses. This being an important point, and one to be sincerely desired, it must be viewed with some degree of satisfaction, and, with the fact that the funds now average about £2 10s. for every member entitled to assistance, proves the Association to be in a very healthy state; the only thing to be regretted being that the funds and members are not of greater magnitude."

The Report of the Board of Management was read, and the meeting then proceeded to the election of officers as follows:—

Vice-Presidents—Rev. F. F. Statham and Mr. J. H. Dallmeyer.

Treasurer—Mr. H. Baden Pritchard, F.C.S.

Auditors—Messrs. G. Taylor and L. Sisman.

Board—Messrs. W. S. Bird (Chairman), W. M. Ashman (Deputy-Chairman), H. J. Burton, T. Bolas, J. D. Fage, J. A. B. Hall, E. D. Lavender, J. O'Connor, H. Rheinlander, H. J. Thorne, A. Strivens, and R. E. Wilkinson.

Secretary—Mr. H. Harland.

Messrs. Rice and White were elected as ordinary members.

Upon the proposition to re-elect the Chairman,

Mr. BIRD said that in the face of the report which had been adopted, he felt himself in a somewhat difficult position, and should be unwilling to continue in office. It was disheartening to find after the lapse of six years that the Society had made so little real progress, and he questioned whether a continuance of the movement was not a mere waste of philanthropic effort. There could be no fault with the constitution or the aims of the Society, nor, he thought, with its management. They had trustees and office-bearers whose names alone were enough guarantee of the genuineness of the Society, and every reasonable effort had been made to obtain publicity for their proceedings. These efforts had not been in vain, for the Association had succeeded in obtaining the recognition of the photographic press, in holding annual *soirees* at the Exhibition of the Photographic Society of Great Britain, and had, he believed, made its existence known throughout the profession. Nevertheless, the report revealed that, with the most economical management possible, the cost of such management had in every year of

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