

able to take a good picture, and retouch well, is from £2 to £3 weekly.

To improve, he should get a situation as assistant operator, give his mind to it, and if one situation does not give him scope enough, try another, read Capt. Abney's work, and determine to improve.

The employers' letters are nothing to the purpose. Every one knows that a few have £5 or £6 weekly, or more, perhaps, if they are first-class colourists as well as photographers; but such places are few.

"Beau Nash" and "J. Kay" imply that assistants have only to ask for a rise and get it, and that good men always get good berths. From experience I know better. As a class, I think assistants are underpaid, but so long as hundreds can be got for thirty shillings weekly, I expect they will remain so.—Yours respectfully,  
H. B.

#### CANARY MEDIUM V. RUBY GLASS.

SIR,—In the columns of your valuable paper of May 7th I see there is a great deal of doubt as to the safety of the canary medium. It seems to me as if Mr. Cussons, of Southport, must have got some *Canary tissue paper* to make his trial on, as he says that he used *two* thicknesses of the medium and got nothing but veiling.

Now there is one question I should like to ask: Whether or not the members of the West Riding of Yorkshire Photographic Society are able to judge the difference between the two lights; but seeing that they have unanimously adopted the *real medium* (and not the tissue paper that our friend Mr. Cussons seems to have used), shows pretty plainly that they are capable of judging for themselves, and, as I have said before, they are unanimously in favour of *Canary medium*.

Besides the West Riding of Yorkshire there is Gloucester, and other places, where the ruby is entirely "snuffed out," from the fact of having once seen the *real canary medium* in use; in fact, Mr. Gillard, of Gloucester, is so much in favour of it, that he has a five-foot window covered with nothing else, and it is only *one thickness*, so I think Mr. Cussons has made a great mistake somewhere, when a man of Mr. Gillard's standing can work under the medium, and with perfect safety, too.

Now, as to the test before the above-mentioned Society. My lamp was fixed up in the room by the side of the ruby, it being only covered with *one thickness* of the medium on plain glass, and a sixteen-candle gas-burner inside the lamp turned full on, the ruby lamp having a small taper burning inside. Trials were then made by the members, a double quarter-plate negative being cut in two, also another unexposed one, and being placed on the negative, and put in separate printing-frames. They were exposed to the respective lights for three minutes, when, being developed, the ruby gave a strong transparency, and the canary a slight impression. Now, taking into consideration the canary having a sixteen-candle burner, and the ruby only a small taper, and the result being as above stated, surely the members are justified in discarding the ruby; and I, as a member, cannot see why Mr. Cussons should be so positive, and give a direct negative to the canary without first knowing whether he had got the right medium or not. Several other plates were developed during the evening, without the slightest trace of veiling. So I say once more, surely some of the members, who are old-standing photographers, would have seen whether the light was trustworthy or not.

It also seems to me that Mr. Cussons is the only maker of a *rapid dry plate*, as he says he developed one of his *extra rapid dry plates* by a gas lamp covered with two thicknesses of the medium with the result of veiling. Now, I have no doubt that mine and other makers' plates would have veiled under the same medium used by our friend; but as a plain proof to him I may say that I have seen *his*, and most other makers', of the extra rapid

plates, which he refers to, developed under my medium without the slightest trace of veiling.

I send you with this a sample of the medium, so you can test for yourself.—Apologizing for trespassing on your space, I am, sir, yours respectfully,

72, *Barkerend Road*, Bradford. THOS CHAS. BRIDGES.

### Proceedings of Societies.

#### GLASGOW PHOTOGRAPHIC ASSOCIATION.

THE Annual General Meeting for the election of Office-bearer for the ensuing year was held in the Religious Institution Rooms on the 29th ult., when the following gentlemen were duly elected, viz.—

*President*—Mr. John Urie.

*Vice-Presidents*—Councillor Robertson and Mr. Paton.

*Treasurer*—Mr. George Bell.

*Members of Council*—Dr. Fairlie, Messrs. Stirling, Morran, Skipner, Reid, and Gilfillan.

*Honorary Auditors*—Messrs. John Parker and A. McTear.

*Secretary*—W. Craig Ramsey Writer, 134, St. Vincent Street.

A committee was formed for the purpose of getting a print for presentation to the members of the Association.

The attention of the meeting was drawn to the fact that a number of the members had not got copies of the Rules of the Association, and that prints of the same were exhausted. A committee was appointed to revise the rules and print the same.

The Council were empowered to take the necessary measures to get up an excursion among the members to some picturesque locality for the purpose of giving professionals and amateurs an opportunity of competing in landscape photography.

A vote of thanks was awarded to the late Secretary, Mr. McGhie, for his services to the Association.

#### BRISTOL AND WEST OF ENGLAND AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHIC ASSOCIATION.

THE ordinary monthly meeting was held at the Museum, Queen's Road, as usual, on Wednesday, Mr. RADCLIFFE in the chair.

The minutes of the last meeting having been confirmed, the Rev. Joseph Strutt Bird, of Wilts, and Major Graham Owen, of Bath, were elected ordinary members of the Association.

The Hon. SECRETARY then communicated to the members an invitation to them to spend a day (to be fixed) at Great Elm, near Frome, and to lunch at the residence of the Rev. H. B. Hare (one of the members), from whom the invitation came.

Rev. H. B. HARE said that he desired that it should be an extra meeting beyond the ordinary excursion meetings, and he was sure they would all be pleased with the subjects for the camera which the neighbourhood presented.

The Hon. SECRETARY said he had had the pleasure of spending a day with Mr. Hare at Great Elm, and he could quite confirm his statement as to the beauty of the district, having had excellent opportunity of judging, the weather experienced on that day having been of almost every kind. It simply remained to fix the date. After some discussion, the 26th inst. was decided upon, and

The CHAIRMAN, having ascertained that that date was agreeable to Mr. Hare, thanked him on behalf of all the gentlemen he had so kindly invited, and said that if able to be present and the weather were fine, he quite looked forward to a very enjoyable day.

The Hon. SECRETARY having read a letter from Mr. H. N. White, of the Isle of Wight, who was to have read a paper on Vitro-enamels, stating the great regret he felt at being quite prevented (through the serious illness of a relation) from delivering his paper in person, stated that there was no other business to transact.

The CHAIRMAN then asked the Hon. Secretary to read the paper which Mr. White had forwarded, entitled "Vitro-enamels" (see page 242) at the close of which

Mr. BIGGS said that never having directed his attention to this branch of the art-science, he was much surprised at the beauty of the productions, and had experienced very great pleasure in listening to the paper treating thereon, and equally pleased by the large number of charming portraits and landscapes Mr. White had been at the great trouble of sending. The process might be applied to so many purposes that he much wondered how it was so very few professionals at all worked it; he considered