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PHOTOGRAPHY IN AND OUT OF THE STUDIO.

THE LATEST WOODBURYTYPE METHOD—THE THIN SHEET METAL FROM WHICH BRONZE POWDER IS MANUFACTURED—NATURALISTS AND PHOTOGRAPHY—MR. DUNMORE'S PRIZE COMPETITION—THE DINNER TO MR. STATHAM.

The Latest Woodburytype Method.—This process, which was alluded to by our Paris Correspondent last week, promises great things. What can be more simple than employing a positive transparency instead of a negative, and then actually using the gelatine relief itself as a printing mould? The keynote of the process, however, consists in covering the surface of the mould with a sheet of tinfoil, this being forced into every detail of the gelatine by pressure. Those who have not tried the experiment of moulding a finely detailed surface by means of tinfoil have no notion as to the ease with which this substance can be made to receive impressions of the most minute and finely modelled details. It is difficult to see in what respect a dry and hard gelatine relief, developed on a thick piece of plate glass, and rendered impervious to aqueous liquids by means of a covering of tinfoil, should be inferior, as regards printing qualities, to the usual lead mould. On the other hand, the new composite mould appears likely to possess many substantial advantages over the old-fashioned one. Instead of being soft and subject to damage or absolute ruin through careless handling or uneven pressure, the new moulds should be always ready for printing, and never go out of truth. The fact of dry insoluble gelatine being very much harder than lead will, no doubt, prove of great practical advantage, as a very large number of copies will doubtless be obtainable from one of the new moulds before any signs of extension of the highest points of light become visible in the prints; this extension being due to a flattening of the most prominent parts of the mould. This last simplification bids fair to be Mr. Woodbury's greatest triumph; more especially as we may now see the Woodburytype process in the hands of the many. Vidal's promised book on "Woodburytype—the Old and the New," will be waited for with impatience by those interested in photo-mechanical printing.

The Thin Sheet Metal from which Bronze Powder is Manufactured.—When wandering through the Printing Exhibition, now open at the Agricultural Hall, we caught sight of some of this material hanging around the exhibits of Messrs. Ehrmann and Co., bronze powder makers, of Fürth. These sheets are of brass, or a brass-like alloy, and about one-fourth the thickness of ordinary tinfoil; while they proved, on inspection, to be perfectly continuous, and free from holes. It is unnecessary to say that our thoughts were at once directed towards the "new" and the "newest" Woodburytype process, for which we hope that the material in question may prove useful; and although we were unable to secure a specimen of this thin sheet metal at the time, we hope to obtain some before long, and to try the result of using it as a substitute for tinfoil in Woodbury's new processes.

Naturalists and Photography.—The Epping Forest and County of Essex Naturalists' Field Club is a kind of outdoor society for discussing and studying the natural wonders of the county generally, and Epping Forest in particular; and last Saturday week they had a very enjoyable afternoon's ramble in the Forest, despite frequent showers of rain. Although about fifty attended the meeting, only one camera was visible, and the bearer of that appeared to be so dispirited by the general dampness of the occasion that he did not seem disposed to take much advantage of the occasional bursts of sunshine, which, like the wand of a magician, often changed the whole aspect of the scene, caus-

ing the leaves to glisten like—aye, more brilliantly than—the most diamond-bedizened beauty of the ball room. If some three or four members were to tell themselves systematically off for photographic duty, the Club would soon possess an interesting and permanent record of their wanderings; and the discussion of points of interest to the members—such as the identity of certain ridges of earth with the boundaries of ancient camps, the conditions of the growth of trees, &c.—might be discussed upon photographic evidence during winter evening meetings. Who, for example, would not like to have a life-sized photograph of that remarkable little plant, the Sundew, which closes in upon and digests small flies or other insects? And yet we have never heard that this curiosity of Epping Forest has been photographed.

Mr. Dunmore's Prize Competitions.—Some nine months ago the South London Photographic Society instituted, at the suggestion of Mr. Dunmore, a monthly competition in artistic photography, the subject for each picture being periodically announced from the President's chair. The first subject, thus set for the competitors was "Winter," and no less than twelve pictures were sent in. The late severe weather certainly favoured the effective rendering of such a subject; but, considering that the competition is limited to members, the number of pictures sent in may be regarded as highly satisfactory, and indicative of a considerable degree of vitality on the part of the Society. Among the twelve pictures are several of which the merits are so considerable that the judges will have no easy task in awarding the palm; and there is not one out of the twelve which can in any way be considered as devoid of a high degree of merit. The more difficult subject of "An Election" having been set, four pictures were sent in; while the more extensively practicable task of making a photograph to correspond with the title "Desolate" was fulfilled by five aspirants for distinction. Among the subjects for future competition may be mentioned "Mischief," and "A Bit of Sunshine." At the October meeting of the Society we may hope to see numerous pictures illustrating these titles. The former especially affords a fine opportunity for fully developing the wonderful life-depicting power of rapid gelatine plates. We remember once witnessing a scene which would have well illustrated both subjects. A choir boy in a cathedral was singing his solo with a result evidently highly satisfactory to himself, while a beam of sunshine passing through the east window lighted his face and figure in a manner calculated to delight an artist. Meanwhile, a young rascal, who was standing next to the singer, was just in the act of inserting the point of a pin into the soloist's elbow. Retribution, however, came sharply upon the delinquent in the form of a severe cuff administered by a grisly-bearded man who was immediately behind our youthful friend. Mr. Dunmore deserves thanks for having inaugurated these friendly competitions; and let us hope that the discussions which an examination of the pictures must inevitably lead to, will be productive of improved artistic taste and increased enthusiasm in photographic matters.

The Dinner to Mr. Statham.—This dinner, which was announced in our last number, will not only celebrate the majority of the South London Photographic Society, but also the circumstance that the Rev. F. F. Statham has presided over it during the whole twenty-one years of its existence. The genial presence of Mr. Statham has been a real bond of union during this period, and slight discords, which have made themselves felt from time to time, have been so adroitly resolved by him, that the South London Society has always been noted for the harmony of its meetings and the good fellowship existing among its members. We hope to see a good attendance of members and others.