

The next thing I did after the lady's maid's departure was to call my prieter—a big, stout fellow, with a nerve that nothing will shake. "I am going to take a corpse, Henry," I explain, "and I wish you to carry the tripod, and help me."

"All right, sir," was his cheerful answer. There was no mistake, he rather liked the job.

My next step was to sensitize two plates—half-plates for a repeating back camera—thus being able to take four pictures. I used a Dallmeyer lens with the No. 6 diaphragm. A piece of blotting-paper damped and placed over the backs of the glasses effectually kept away those distressful oyster-shell markings that so frequently occur when any length of time occurs between the sensitizing and the developing.

All was at length ready. I carried the camera and dark slides, and Henry had the most laborious job of shouldering the stand. However, fifteen minutes' walk brought us to the place.

There was wealth around. We could see that at a glance, in spite of the cold and the snow. There was the large gate, the solemn porter, and the fat, fierce dog that snapped so very, very near to poor Henry's calves, that in terror he dropped the heavy camera-stand upon its back. We heard that dog occasionally during our stay in the mansion, but we did not see it any more.

And now we are in the little bedroom.

There is a close oppressive feeling—your eyes wander to the iron bedstead, and they are rivetted upon a dim outline visible underneath the snowy sheet. The sight raises a feeling of times gone by, and while the hoarse whisper of the pale nurse hisses in your ear, other days and other forms rise before your mind's eye, and you heave a sigh as you turn to unpack your camera and slides.

"Will you be able to do it where the bed is?" asks the nurse.

"No; it is impossible! I must have the head of the bed placed close against the window—a little more to one side than the other."

This Henry and I have to do. We shift the furniture, and gently lifting the bed we place it as I want. I get a cushion and lift the head as high as I dare, still not high enough for my purpose, for the nostrils will show in the most absurd manner.

Now the focus and everything is ready for the exposure. If I exposed by means of the light that we had upon the face of the corpse, it would have required ten minutes, and then not have been enough. Now how was I to lessen the exposure and make a good picture?

Every one who has read as far as this knows that I had nothing to do with the dry plates that do such wonders now-a-days. This paper has nothing to do with them, and I dare not express an opinion upon them. What I have to do with is my "quiet subject," which I managed by means of my wet process, with the Autotype collodion and a 35-grain bath.

Now the little wrinkle, gentlemen! It is not a great one, it is not a difficult one; and all I have to say in its praise is, for the photographer who has not tried it, to begin at once.

My exposure for the corpse was five minutes by my watch; but during each exposure the printer, Henry, drew off the cap, while I held a bedroom mirror in such a position—within a yard of the face—that I caught the rays of the weak December light and the bright snow, and imparted it to my "quiet subject."

For those who are able to take a hint, I need say no more. Enclosed are a couple of the prints. I developed them by an ordinary developer—they wanted no intensifying; and, in fact, I have said all I can say, and you can give your opinion of the prints, Mr. Editor, if you choose.

[We shall give no opinion; we have seen a good deal of Mr. Bradfords's work, and it has never failed to please us.—ED. P. N.]

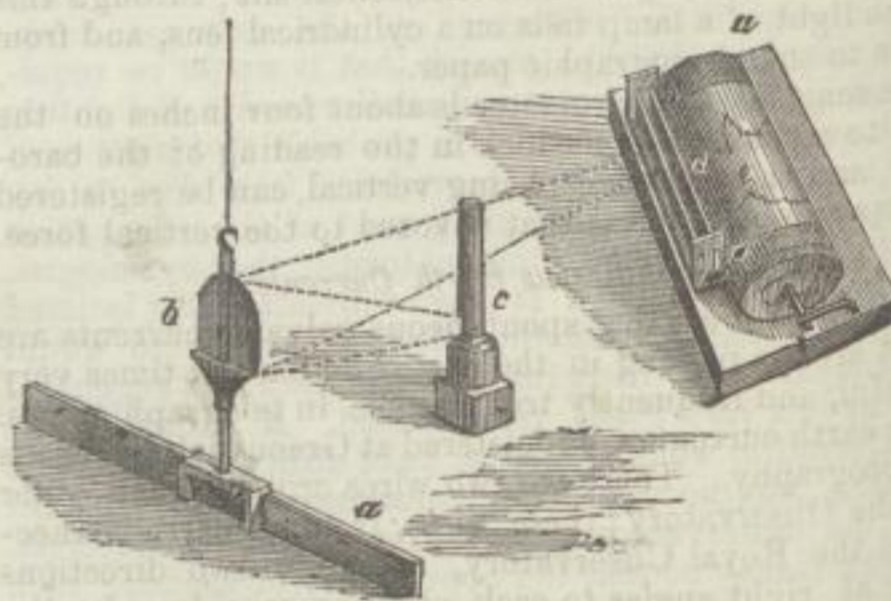
At Home.

AT THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY, GREENWICH.

THE Royal Observatory, Greenwich, is situated nearly in the centre of Greenwich Park, and was built in the year 1676 by order of Charles II. It was devoted almost exclusively to astronomical observations till 1840. In that year regular magnetical and meteorological observations were begun, and, for seven years, observations were made every two hours night and day. On some days, indeed, observations were made every five minutes for twenty-four hours consecutively, and on days of magnetic disturbances the observations were made continuously, so long as the disturbance lasted. The movements of the magnets are of so delicate a nature that nothing in the shape of a pencil could be attached to them to trace their movements, and no means, except the use of an imponderable agent like light, could be used for that purpose.

About this time two gentlemen—viz., the late Sir Francis Ronalds, F.R.S., and the late C. Brooke, Esq., F.R.S.—made experiments to register these delicate movements by means of photography, and from the year 1848 all magnetical and some meteorological observations have been recorded by means of the system perfected by Mr. Brooke.

His principle is shown in the annexed cut, in which *a* represents a part of a bar magnet; *b* a concave mirror, resting on a stirrup firmly attached to the suspension apparatus, the whole being supported by a single thread; *c*



an ebonite cylinder wrapped round with photographic paper; *d* a plano-convex lens; *e* a lamp placed a little out of the line which joins the centres of the cylinder and magnet in operation. A pencil of light passes from *c* through a very narrow aperture, diverges and spreads over the mirror *b*, from which it is reflected, and diverges to the lens *d*, and is condensed into a well-defined spot of light at the surface of the paper. The action of this spot upon the photographic paper is to leave a trace, which is, however, imperceptible until subsequently revealed by the application of a developing solution.

The principle adopted for all instruments is the same. For the register of each indication, a cylinder is provided whose material is ebonite, and which is accurately turned in a lathe. The axis of the cylinder is placed parallel to the direction of the change of indication which is to be registered. If there are two indications whose movements are in the same direction, both may be registered on the same cylinder; one on the one side, and the other on the other, keeping their traces separate, as shown by the zig-zag lines, one at either end of the cylinder, in the preceding wood-cut.

Magnetic Elements.

The magnets in use at the Observatory are of hard steel, 2 feet in length, 1½ inch in breadth, and ¼ of an inch in thickness.

If a magnet be suspended by its middle point, it would settle in the magnetic meridian, now about 18½° west of