

confirmed, an application for assistance was submitted to the meeting. The Board, after carefully considering the matter, passed the following resolution, as being the most suitable under the circumstances; "That the maximum sum of £6 be granted to the applicant as follows:—One pound ten shillings at once, and an equal amount each week until a situation be obtained for him by the Association; and that in the event of a situation being found, the secretary to give him sufficient to pay railway fare (unless forwarded by employer) and other necessary expenses, provided that the same does not exceed the maximum quoted above."

BRISTOL AND WEST OF ENGLAND AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHIC ASSOCIATION.

THE Annual Meeting was held on Wednesday, 24th January, at the Association Studio, Mr. W. RADCLIFFE in the chair; it being purely a business meeting, the attendance was not large.

The minutes having been confirmed, business pertaining to an annual meeting was gone through.

The TREASURER (Mr. E. Brightman) stated that the funds of the Association were in a satisfactory state.

The HON. SECRETARY, in announcing the resignation through ill-health of Mr. A. Levy, stated that they had never yet had a resignation without the addition of a new member, and there would be one, if not more, to be balloted for at the next meeting. He considered it a subject for congratulation that their members had steadily increased. He felt sure that the advent of the gelatine process would bring a large number of additional members to their ranks.

It was decided to postpone the report and election of officers till the February meeting, on account of the smallness of the attendance, caused not only by the nature of the meeting, but also by the exceedingly bad weather.

Talk in the Studio.

PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE RECENT TRANSIT.—Mr. Forster, of Col-lumpton, forwards us an interesting series, showing very clearly the progressive march of the planet over the solar disc. He says:—"The pictures were taken with a half-plate portrait lens, and stopped down to half inch, and the image enlarged by passing through the Huyghenian eye-piece of a telescope. Wet plates prepared with Mawson's collodion were used, and iron developer was employed. No. 3 was intensified rather too much with pyrogallic. It is just possible that No. 3 may have been taken during a wave of atmospheric disturbance, and the outline of the planet is like a deeply cogged-wheel with bent teeth.

THE LATE W. F. SOUTHWELL.—Mr. Frederick Southwell, of the late firm of Southwell Brothers, who recently died at the age of 49 years, will be remembered by those of our readers whose memories will carry them back twenty years, as managing what was at that time perhaps the highest class photographic establishment in London. The deceased gentlemen had the happy faculty of making himself liked in whatever society he mixed, and was treated with marked attention and courtesy by the distinguished and royal sitters whom he had the honour of photographing both in the Baker Street studio, and at Windsor Castle. He suffered for some eight months under an affection the fatal nature of which was only made known to him shortly before his decease. The funeral took place at Brompton Cemetery on Saturday last.

INSTANTANEOUS PHOTOGRAPHY.—On Tuesday evening last, Mr. Arnold Spiller read a paper with the above title at a meeting of the King's College Science Society. The lecturer treated the subject under four headings, viz., sensitive film, lens, shutter, and applications. Under sensitive film the early results by the daguerreotype, albumen, and collodion processes were referred to, the gelatine process being explained in detail. Under lenses, the construction, qualities, and different applications of the various combinations were described, preference being given to the rapid rectilinear type for general instantaneous work. The advantages and disadvantages, and the estimation of the exposure of the various shutters, were next discussed. The paper concluded with a short description of the applications of photography by Messrs. Muybridge, Marey, and Shadbolt. During the evening several experiments, and some excellent photographs by Messrs. England, Valentine, Henderson, and Martin, were shown.

PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB.—At the next meeting of this Club, on Wednesday, the 21st inst., the subject for discussion will be "Dark-Room Windows."

To Correspondents.

J. A. NICHOLS.—1. Bichromated gelatine or albumen suggests itself, but the insoluble surface repels water almost as completely as a greasy film would repel this liquid; and under the circumstances we would suggest the following. Mix one volume of a saturated solution of ammonium bichromate with its own bulk of water, and then add so much alcohol as is equal to the volume of the diluted solution. Ordinary albumenized paper is now floated on the liquid for a few seconds, and dried in a well-lighted place; after which, soluble matter is removed by treatment with water and with a weak bath of acetic acid. The object of the alcohol is to prevent the dissolving of the albumen. Of course you will write on the back of the paper. 2. To a moderately dilute solution of chloride of copper, add sufficient liquid ammonia to re-dissolve the greenish precipitate which is first thrown down. The deep blue liquid is now placed in a well-stoppered bottle with copper turnings, and allowed to remain until the liquid becomes colourless.

R. TAYLOR.—1. Only a very minute trace need be added in ordinary cases, and when the nitrate is moderately acid there is often no necessity for this addition. 2. A saturated solution of bromine in water, often called "bromine water," is obtained by shaking a small proportion of liquid bromine with water in a stoppered bottle, and pouring off the aqueous solution from the excess of bromine. 3. Do you think that the light you use in the dark room is quite safe? It is surprising how one may be led astray by a trace of light fog. Another matter which often leads to much waste of time and energy is the use of vessels of porous earthenware, traces of old emulsion becoming thus carried into new batches. We shall be pleased to hear from you again.

H. SPINK.—You cannot do better than obtain such a portrait lens as you refer to, and either of the makers you name will supply you with one of the best optical workmanship. We are inclined to think that it would be well not to exceed a focus of ten inches, and you must take care not to obtain an instrument which would necessitate an undue distance between the sitter and the camera, this being an especially important point when the atmosphere is a little hazy. In the brightest summer weather you will often find it advisable to use an ordinary view lens of longish focus, exceedingly crisp pictures being often obtainable by this means.

A. F. D.—1. Purity of image. 2. We would advise whole plates (8½ by 6½) as fairly marketable, and well suited for enlarging. 3. It is impossible to say, as tastes differ so widely, and are influenced by local considerations. 4. We should prefer to take a larger proportion of the latter.

DYE.—1. A solution of iodine green in methylated spirit. 2. Ordinary magenta dye dissolved in a similar manner. 3. A soluble aniline blue. Let us know if you experience any further difficulty.

A. RENDY.—1. Use it whichever way is most convenient, as our experience indicates that it makes no difference whatever. 2. A moderately small stop, say equal to one-fifteenth of the focus. 3. It is probably due to the thickness of the sensitive film. 4. Try a shorter exposure and more vigorous development.

REX.—We are not quite certain whether it is still in force, but we will ascertain.

A. N. L.—1. Glycerine. 2. Yes, it will answer to a certain extent, but only a trace should be added—say one drop to each ounce of solution. 3. They are practically identical.

H. D.—The directions given in the last paragraph on page 123 of the YEAR-BOOK are quite sufficient, but if you experience any difficulty, write again.

RAPIDITY.—1. The whole of the ammonia should not be driven off. 2. Delay is not by any means essential at this point, but we have found a slight increase of sensitiveness to result when it is boiled for half an hour before adding the bulk of the gelatine; still there was certainly a tendency towards green fog. Do not be misled by the red colour—try a plate. 3. Do not use ammonia, but increase the time of boiling to two hours. 4. Yes, at any rate in this particular instance.

COLOMBO.—Unless you add acetic acid, the reduction will be extremely rapid. Add about 5 per cent.

B. R.—1. No, it was a lithograph. 2. Add more gold solution. 3. It was certainly not effectually removed, and the result—apart from all theory—should convince you of your mistake.

IN A FIX.—In such an instance, the copyright belongs to the person who employed you to take the picture. You can secure the copyright of any picture which you have produced at your own expense, by registering it; but the copyright of work executed for a customer belongs to that customer. Our Publishers undertake the registration of any photograph for a fee of 1s. 6d. The registration must be effected before the sale of any copy or copies.

T. T.—A sheet of newspaper hung up so as to reflect a little light on the dark side would fully meet the case.

W. C. W.—We should prefer No. 1 or No. 2; but these we regard as equally good.