

on Sensitive Salts of Silver." Also communications from Messrs. J. B. Spurge and J. R. Sawyer.

Messrs. W. AND D. DOWNEY were honoured with sittings on Saturday last by H.R.H. the Princess of Wales and her family. Messrs. Downey inform us that they were successful in securing some capital panel portraits, and also several cabinet groups of their illustrious visitors, who were accompanied by Her Serene Highness the Princess of Saxe Meiningen, of whom some excellent portraits were also secured.

FIRE AT DERBY.—A destructive fire occurred this week on the premises of Mr. W. Winter, photographer, &c., Station Street, and before it could be extinguished the back part of the premises was gutted, considerable damage being done. But for the timely arrival of the various fire-brigades, it is likely the fire would have extended to a large block of dwellings, which was separated by a few yards only from the scene of the conflagration.

MR. SEYMOUR HAYDEN ON ART AND MANUFACTURE.—In what, then, it may be asked, does an art differ from a manufacture? An art differs from a manufacture in this, that, though it depends on agencies of a material kind for its outward expression, still those agencies, like the brush of the painter, are of a simple kind, and are wholly directed by an impulse which has its seat and centre in the brain of the artist. Invest anyone of those simple agencies—the brush of the painter, the pencil of the designer, the chisel of the sculptor, the needle of the etcher, the knife of the surgeon, the pen of the poet—invest, I say, anyone of these simple agents with any of the properties of the machine—render them, that is to say, in any degree automatic, so as to make unnecessary and place in abeyance the brain impulse just spoken of—and you will have, as a result of such agency, not an art, but a manufacture. Or, it may be, by a sort of marriage of the two conditions, there may result something which is less than an art and more than a manufacture—that thing of modern birth, in short, which has come to be called an "art manufacture." I see no objection to this term, since, by the infusion of an art element into it, even a tombstone may be made a work of art, as in the time of the Romans, and a *pot au feu*, as in that of the Etruscans.—*From a paper read before the Society of Arts.*

ELECTRIC LIGHTING THIRTY-ONE YEARS AGO.—The following paragraph, which went the round of the papers in 1852, is cut from *The Home Companion* of September 25th in that year. It bears a remarkable resemblance to the newspaper paragraphs of the present day.—THE ELECTRICAL LIGHT.—We have not heard much of late about the electric light in the metropolis: why it has gone to the country we do not know, unless it be merely as a novelty; we observe, however, that it is at present being exhibited at Liverpool, where there is perhaps a somewhat better or opener field than in the narrow river of the metropolis, for the extension of its uses in connection with shipping. "The light," says a Liverpool paper, "was exhibited from the tower at the north end of the Prince's Dock shortly after the mail steam-ship *Africa* entered the river. It was exceedingly brilliant, and could be distinguished at a great distance." The experiment was considered decidedly successful. The inventor has obtained the permission of the Dock Committee to test the advantages of his light by showing it at the landing-stage, or other suitable position along the line of the docks. With steadiness of lustre, the power of the electric light would be invaluable as a guide to sailors.

ACTION OF POTASH ON ALBUMEN, BY G. S. JOHNSON.—The author is of opinion that potassium tetrathionate, and not sulphide, is formed when albumen is boiled with potash. He has observed that lead sulphide is always formed when white of egg, filtered or otherwise, or pure albumen, is boiled with lead hydrate dissolved in dilute potash; also when fresh white of egg is boiled for a short time, cooled, and tested with lead acetate, a red colour is produced which might be mistaken for sulphide. When, however, white of egg filtered through charcoal, or pure albumen, is boiled with potash solution (sp. gr. 1.08) alone, no indication of sulphide is obtained with lead acetate, and, if the boiling has been prolonged, no sulphide is formed, even on boiling in the presence of lead. The author objects to this result being attributed to the oxidation of sulphide formed in the first instance; firstly, because the same result (the non-appearance of sulphide after prolonged boiling of albumen with dilute potash) was obtained in an experiment conducted in an atmosphere of pure hydrogen; secondly, because a solution of albumen after being boiled with potash until it gave no indication of sulphide, and then mixed with concentrated potash (sp. gr. 1.3) and again

boiled, yielded an abundance of sulphide. These phenomena are accounted for by the author's hypothesis of the formation of tetrathionate. This salt yields no sulphide when boiled with dilute potash, but yields large quantities with concentrated potash.—*Journal of the Chemical Society.*

PURIFICATION OF CONTAMINATED WATERS.—J. König has devised an efficient method of purifying water from organic impurities. It consists in causing the water to flow on to wire-netting placed at such an angle that the water flows over the meshes, thus exposing a large surface to the air. Thus the water becomes thoroughly saturated with oxygen, and sulphuretted hydrogen, &c., is completely oxidised. For every 6 to 7 litres water which passes per minute, 50 cm. of netting is requisite.

PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB.—At the next meeting of this Club, June 13th, the subject for discussion will be "On Out-door Portraiture," adjourned from the last meeting.

To Correspondents.

* * * We cannot undertake to return rejected communications.

- J. HAMPTON.—1. It is probable that the addition of a few drops of water to each ounce of the collodion will serve to partially prevent it; but, at the same time, you should take care to drain your plates thoroughly. See that your slide is clean, and thoroughly free from dust; you would do well to wipe it out with damp blotting-paper immediately before use, also to place a sheet of moist blotting-paper at the back of the plate. 2. It is better to let a little run off, in such a case, as more silver is present than is actually required to form the image.
- W. P.—The case is a little difficult; but we are under the impression that printers usually protect themselves by a special proviso that they are not to be held responsible for any damage to the negatives in their possession.
- W. GADDMAN.—No further description has reached this country, but there should be no difficulty in designing an efficient apparatus from the account given.
- H. LAMBERT (Bath).—Thanks for the specimens of Carte Mignon and Promenade Mignon portraits. The general style and get-up is a decided improvement on those previously sent, and we think, with you, that these styles are likely to become very popular.
- A. SELBY.—A six-inch stove-pipe should be ample, but much depends on the locality. Of course you must provide baffle-plates, in order to prevent ingress of light.
- C. T. L.—1. It is certainly so at present, but what remedy can you suggest? 2. Not unless the whole system undergoes a change.
- G. G.—The subscription to the Postal Photographic Society is five shillings, and the entrance fee half-a-crown. Write to Mr. H. H. Cunningham, 7, Fig Tree Court, Temple.
- E. E. M.—The thorough waxing of the glass is essential, and this can only be effected by well warming the glass, and repeatedly rubbing it with a flannel well charged with wax. The excess should not be very thoroughly polished off until the glass has been used a few times. Use pure yellow wax.
- ALPHA.—1. Perhaps there was an undue proportion of acid in the salt. Neutralise with a few grains of precipitated chalk. 2. A saturated solution. 3. We have obtained an excellent article from the firm you mention, but the price was somewhat higher. 4. A few sheets of newspaper laid on the floor, so as to reflect light on the dark drapery, will serve your purpose admirably. 5. Act as already suggested. 6. Thanks for your kind suggestion.
- T. OLIVER.—1. The mucilage will become acid in a short time, and it is certainly not desirable to use it when in this condition. 2. The addition of borax is not likely to do any harm, but we fail to see any probable advantage. 3. It was printed by the colotype process; but it is our impression that the number issued was not large. 4. No; you had better write to Mr. Woodbury.
- TYPO.—1. The Pretsch process would suit your purpose very well, and we hope shortly to publish some particulars concerning it.
- K. W. (Bradford).—Double the quantity of acetic acid.
- A. A. B.—The high temperature would be quite sufficient to account for it.
- NEW SUBSCRIBER.—1. The numbers are out of print. Do you require special information on any one point? 2. It is published by Wyman, Great Queen Street.
- ONE IN TROUBLE.—Judging from what you say, we gather that there is but little hope of restoring the negatives to a useful condition. Perhaps, however, the following will be the best course:—First, secure as good a copy as you can; next, remove the varnish by repeated ablutions with warm alcohol; and, finally, soak in a ten-grain solution of cyanide. Of course a thorough washing must follow.