

a dull surface when in optical contact with the glass; the tendency of all the remarks being that a backing of some kind was the best.

Mr. COWAN then exhibited a new drop-shutter he had designed, which worked inside the camera, behind the lens, and not requiring any opening to be made in the camera for the fall of the shutter, the release being effected by pneumatic power.

LONDON AND PROVINCIAL PHOTOGRAPHIC ASSOCIATION.

At the meeting held on the 19th inst., Mr. F. W. HART in the chair,

Mr. COWAN showed a drop-shutter to work immediately behind the lens; it was made to take the place of the lens-board, the flange being fastened on to it, the thickness being about $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch; it was so arranged that any amount of exposure could be given, say from one-fifth of a second to any longer time desired. It consisted of two drops falling one after the other, held in position by a trigger-spring so arranged that the act of releasing the first drop held the second one till the trigger was released, when that also fell.

The CHAIRMAN said that the best lens-board he had seen was one of Mr. Warnerke's, which was made of ebonite, the largest lens screwing into the front itself, an adapter being used for all the others.

Mr. J. TEGEDA, of New York, who was introduced to the meeting, said that the principal obstacle encountered there in the preparation of gelatine plates was the extreme difficulty in producing a rapid emulsion during the hot season. With the glass at 95°F. the quickest he could produce was about twice the speed of collodion; he had tried boiling, and also adding ammonia to quicken the speed, but found this decomposed the gelatine, the top of the emulsion remaining perfectly clear when emulsion was set. He had been more successful with boiling than with the ammonia process; the quickest he had prepared was by the ammonia nitrate process, keeping the solution as cool as possible; but even this was very slow.

Mr. HENDERSON passed round prints from negatives taken by Mr. J. Brigenshaw with drop-shutter on plates containing but a very small quantity of silver, as explained by him at a previous meeting; sixty-six cabinet plates being coated with 200 grains of silver.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE AND NORTHERN COUNTIES' PHOTOGRAPHIC ASSOCIATION.

It had been arranged for the first out-door meeting on June 20th to go by sea to Marsden, but the morning was stormy and the sea so rough, that only one member appeared at Tynemouth to join Mr. Auty. A coble not being obtainable on account of the boisterous weather, the morning was spent in taking views of Tynemouth Priory, all of which were unfortunately spoilt by vibration of the camera caused by the wind. Some instantaneous views of the harbour mouth were more successful. The weather improved in the afternoon, a coble was procured, and with a rattling breeze the little party of three were soon on their way to Marsden Rock, about five miles off. Sailing out of the mouth of the Tyne, down the coast by South Shields, and passing Frenchman's Bay and Manhaven, they landed safely at the Velvet-beds, about half a mile distant from Marsden. Several good photographs were taken, and about half past six the party re-embarked, and reached Tynemouth without mishap, where they partook of Mr. Auty's hospitality, and inspected his fine instantaneous storm pictures.

On Wednesday, July 18th, the second out-door meeting took place, the members meeting at the Central Station, Newcastle, at 6.25 a.m. There were seven present, an eighth joining them at Hexham. Thence proceeding by train to Chollerford, after breakfasting at the inn, the company set out for the Chesters, the residence of John Clayton, Esq., the owner of the property upon which the most important stations on the line of the Roman Wall stand. Mr. Clayton kindly permitted the members to inspect his collection of Roman relics, which contains many specimens of jewellery, coins, Samian ware, and other pottery; and when the very numerous Roman altars, figures, and inscribed stones in his museum had been examined, they visited the Roman station of Cilurnum, and saw the Forum, or ancient Roman market place, the Treasury, the Hypocaust, and the gateways of the camp, as well as a portion of the wall itself, which have remained intact since the time of the Roman occupation of Britain. Tempted by the beautiful stretches of river and

woodland, none of the party would devote a plate to the Roman antiquities, and they left the Camp for the banks of the North Tyne, which had been flooded the day before, and still showed by the depth of its rich transparent brown colour that its waters were derived from the hilly moorlands of the borders. Many fine river subjects were photographed, all the gentlemen present being provided with cameras varying in size from quarter-plate up to 15 by 12.

On their return to Chollerford, Professor Herschel, one of the Vice-presidents of the Society, joined them. They then took train to Barrasford Station, and walking down the river, the Castle, which is situated on the opposite bank, was photographed.

On the arrival of the ferryman with his boat from the other side of the river, a group was arranged on the landing-place of the ferry. In order that all the members might appear in the photograph, a small boy was instructed to uncap the lens, and two plates were exposed, which have turned out successful. The river was then crossed, and several views were taken of Haughton Castle and Lake; returning by the village of Humshaugh, they visited the approaches to the Roman Bridge at Cilurnum. The bridge itself, having been made of wood, has long since disappeared, but its foundations and abutments of massive masonry still remain, showing the marks of the Roman chisel very distinctly. On arriving at Chollerford Inn, they finished up the day with tea and a pleasant chat on matters photographic, leaving for Newcastle by the last train. The day, although rather dull, was calm, and very satisfactory for out-door work, and sixty-seven dry plates of various sizes were exposed.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE PHOTOGRAPHIC ASSOCIATION.

THE ordinary monthly meeting of this Association was held on Thursday, July 19th, at the Wedgwood Institute, Burslem, Mr. A. HUMBOLDT SEXTON, F.R.S., occupying the chair.

The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and approved, it was resolved that an excursion be made on Thursday, August 2nd, to Ashbourne and Dovedale; the party to journey from Stoke to Ashbourne by North Eastern Railway, and from thence to Dovedale by waggonette. The secretary was requested to go over to Ashbourne and make all necessary arrangements, and also to send out invitations to photographers, amateur and professional, non-members of the Society in the neighbourhood, to join the party.

Mr. A. HUMBOLDT SEXTON said he was extremely sorry that he should be obliged to resign the office of president of the Association, as he intended leaving the neighbourhood in a few days for Manchester.

Mr. F. J. EMERY said that he was sure all the members present would hear with great regret that their president was about to leave them; he proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Sexton for the very able way in which he had fulfilled the duties of the office since his election.

Mr. BURGESS seconded Mr. Emery's proposition, and the vote was accordingly passed, accompanied with a wish for Mr. Sexton's success in his new undertaking.

Mr. W. Alexander Jones having been elected a member, the meeting separated.

BURY PHOTOGRAPHIC AND ARTS CLUB.

THE monthly meeting was held at the Coffee Rooms, Market Place, Bury, on Monday, July 16th. There was a good attendance of members, Mr. E. W. MELLOR (the president) occupying the chair. The minutes of last meeting having been confirmed, Messrs. R. N. Philips, M.P.; T. Roberts, J.P.; and J. W. Kenyon were elected as honorary members; and Mr. J. Whally as member.

There was a good show of views and groups taken by the members at their last out-door meeting at Bolton Woods, which were declared very satisfactory.

Mr. W. H. DEARDEN then exhibited a new and convenient washing apparatus, designed by himself.

Mr. E. ECCLES exhibited a useful instantaneous shutter, designed by Mr. Kershaw.

A discussion then took place on the various methods of development used for gelatine plates.

Mr. RISHTON gave a description of his method of intensifying gelatine negatives.

The next out-door meeting was fixed to take place on Bank Holiday, August 6th, the districts of Clithero, Downham, and Sawley being selected. Members' friends can join this meeting.