

in his reference at the last meeting to the photograph of the great nebula in Andromeda, saying, "The difficulty of determining which were stars, and which were specks on the plate, was very considerable, and it is quite possible that some of the stars entered in the drawing may turn out not to be stars at all." This nebula, it seems, is much more deficient in photographic light than the nebula in Orion.

Sheets of compact or smooth cardboard, faced with gelatino-bromide emulsion, were shown by M. Thiébaud at a recent meeting of the Paris Photographic Society, these cardboard plates being used in the ordinary dark slides. After development and fixation the cardboard is stripped from the gelatine, and one has a pellicular negative, which can be printed from either side.

Mr. F. Galton's system of composite portraiture has made its appearance in America, pictures of groups of the members of the American Academy of Sciences forming the experiments. The features of thirty-one were first combined, the result, according to an American correspondent of a contemporary, being a fair "type-picture of the average scientist, or the ideal intellectual man of the Caucasian type." Three faces, however, differing greatly from the average, were separated, and the rest was divided into two groups of sixteen naturalists, and twelve mathematicians. The effect of these combinations showed that the mathematicians had a broader, and the naturalists a slightly narrower, forehead than the average of mankind. We are not told, however, what the average width of the forehead is. It would be interesting to know this.

For the first time since it has been the fashion to photograph the University Crews, the Oxford and Cambridge have been taken together. They were invited to dine by a resident of one of the mansions on the banks of the Upper Thames, and advantage was taken of the opportunity to secure a picture. One boating man is very like another, and in this case Pompey greatly resembles Cæsar. Truth to tell, take away three or four faces, and one man might have sat for the rest.

The Photographic Society of Great Britain has no properly-fitted dark-room, but a conveniently-arranged lavatory where it would be quite easy to develop plates. The younger societies in London are better off in this respect, as the Photographic Club has an excellent and convenient dark-room of its own; and the same may now be said of the London and Provincial Association. Although the South London Society is not sole proprietor of a developing room, it is better off than the other societies, as Mr. Trueman Wood is good enough to allow this Society to use the laboratory belonging to the Society of Arts.

Experimenters with green glass for dark-room windows had better beware of what is called "signal green" glass, if they wish to succeed at all. This "signal green" glass

(which derives its name from being used for railway signal lamps) is remarkably opaque to red and yellow rays.

The "Maker's Amateur" of the 'cycling world, to whom we alluded recently, is generally a practitioner who cannot succeed as an ordinary professional, so he takes secret service with a manufacturer of bi- and tri-cycles, and while loudly proclaiming his amateurism, he serves his master by displaying the merits of his goods; by organizing sham exhibitions, where, may be, medals are offered for the best records on the master's machines; and may be, by bringing out a trade circular in something as near to the style of an independent journal as he knows how.

Although the nondescript individual referred to only just exists in photographic circles—in fact, a magnifying glass is required to see him clearly—it is as well to bear in mind the possibility of his future development.

Referring to the bone spoon which we mentioned last week as forming a convenient measure for pyro, we have had two communications which merit special notice.

The first is from Mr. W. B. Allison, the Honorary Secretary of the North Staffordshire Amateur Photographic Society. He says:—"I venture to enclose description of a measure which has been used by me for some time. A drachm pill box cut down to the requisite size for holding the required quantity of pyro is fastened by sealing-wax to a small strip of wood, which is in turn fastened in cork of bottle, precisely as described by you."

The second comes from a Bradford correspondent, who signs himself "Exactitude." This gentleman says that it is quite impossible to measure dry pyrogallic acid with any reasonable approach to accuracy, and he writes a very long letter by way of enforcing this view. He carefully adjusted a spoon, and found that half a dozen trials of the doses lifted by it gave the following results:—1.2 gr., 1.1 gr., 1.3 gr., 1.1 gr., 1.1 gr., 1.0 gr.

Our correspondent's spoon evidently needs cutting down a little more, and his figures serve to illustrate the practical utility of a measure for the pyrogallic acid.

Photo-tricyclists in Russia meet with difficulties just now, two of the chief ones bring the fact that a highly organized camera is not unfrequently taken for a land-torpedoe, and the circumstance that just now a committee is sitting to determine whether tricycling is good for the children of the Czar. The 'Cyclist says that, "Recently a tricyclist in St. Petersburg was ordered by the police to quit the road and take to the path, a course of advice which he promptly followed, only, however, to be ordered back into the road again by the next guardian of the peace whom he met."

Our readers will remember Mr. Beard's camera clip, described by us early in the year. It has been improved