

At first sight it would appear that the hydrokinone developed plate was superior, because it has such a vigorous black in the high light, and almost clear glass in the shadows. The eikonogen developed plate, however, was of a grey colour, and while the sky was quite dark enough for printing purposes, there was undoubtedly more detail in the shadows than in the other negative. At the same time, the reader remarked, the exposures having been purposely cut short in order to test the pretensions of eikonogen as the developer for a really under-exposed plate, it must not be inferred that hydrokinone was the inferior of the two; indeed, his opinion was decidedly the reverse. Mr. Pinkney then proceeded to develop before the members two Thomas' lantern plates, two Ilford special lantern plates, and two pieces of Eastman bromide paper, with eikonogen and hydrokinone, the conditions being precisely the same as regards exposure of the plates and papers. It was clearly shown, 1st, that eikonogen was much slower than hydrokinone, and 2nd, that eikonogen produced a thin veil on lantern plates (which clearing would not remove) which was entirely absent with hydrokinone. The black tone on the bromide papers produced by hydrokinone was much preferred by the members to the cold grey by eikonogen.

A number of slides by members was then exhibited in Mr. James' lantern, kindly lent by him, and a flash-light picture of those present was taken by another member, Mr. R. B. Lodge.

#### THE SHEFFIELD PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY.

THE monthly meeting was held at the Masonic Hall, Surrey Street, on January 8th, Mr. B. J. TAYLOR in the chair.

It was announced that the winners of the President's prizes were as follows:—1st. Mr. E. Beck, with a picture entitled "With the Morning Tide;" 2nd. Mr. Thomas Hibbert, with "Cloud Effects."

It was arranged that an exhibition of prize lantern slides should be given at the next monthly meeting to members and friends. The Secretary reported that vice-president Mr. A. Davy had offered £2 2s., and Mr. Draper a bronze shield, to be given in prizes.

Messrs. Hibbert and Furniss gave a two-man lantern exhibition of their own work.

#### THE LEWES PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY.

A MEETING was held on the 6th inst., at the Fitzroy Library, High Street, Lewes (where the future meetings of the Society will be held); the PRESIDENT in the chair. Mr. A. E. Venn was elected a member.

The evening was devoted to an exhibition of slides, over 200 being passed through the lantern.

An exhibition of members' work, with lantern entertainments and concerts, will be held on the 28th inst. Next meeting February 3rd, when a paper will be read by Mr. A. H. C. Corder on "Printing Processes."

#### THE CROYDON MICROSCOPICAL SOCIETY (PHOTOGRAPHIC SECTION).

Friday, January 9th.—President (Mr. E. LOVETT) in the chair.

Mr. A. W. CLAYDEN, M.A., F.C.S., F.G.S., gave an interesting paper on the method of taking photographs of clouds for meteorological purposes. He also exhibited a camera constructed by himself especially for the purpose. The top of the stand carrying the camera is so small that any desired angle can be got without shifting the legs, and in the front of the lens, set at an angle of 33°, is a dark piece of highly polished glass; the photograph of the cloud being taken from the reflecting surface of the glass. By this means the actinic rays from the blue sky were polarized, or, so to speak, toned down, and facilitated the taking of fine cirrus clouds, which were impossible to get by the old method of pointing the lens straight at the sky. Solar halos can be taken with it, and, in fact, the ease with which fine, fleecy clouds within a little distance of the sun can be taken is very curious.

Many slides taken by this method were exhibited on the screen, consisting of fine forms of cirrus and cumuli clouds, and were notable for their brilliancy and depth.

The President, Messrs. Boyard, I. Weir-Brown, K. Mc.Kean, and W. Low Sarjeant, took part in a discussion that followed.

## Answers to Correspondents.

All Communications, except advertisements, intended for publication, should be addressed to the Editor of the PHOTOGRAPHIC NEWS, 5, FURNIVAL STREET, LONDON, E.C.

All questions requiring a reply in this column should be addressed to Mr. John Spiller, F.C.S., 2, St. Mary's Road, Canonbury, London, N.

All Advertisements and communications relating to money matters, and for the sale of the paper, should be addressed to the Publishers of the PHOTOGRAPHIC NEWS, Messrs. Piper & Carter, 5, FURNIVAL STREET, LONDON.

PHARM.—*List of Members, Photographic Society.* It has been the custom to print once in three years, and the current list bears date February, 1889. For members elected subsequently you must consult the reports and proceedings *seriatim*.

S. BARNARD.—*Focussing on Dark Days.* Use a candle flame held in a position corresponding to the plane of the object to be photographed; and, if necessary, move it over the field to ascertain whether you have secured the best all-round focus. Stoppages of water and gas in towns are frequent accompaniments of frost and fog.

SUBSCRIBER.—*Photographers' Benevolent Association.* 1. By the rules you are at liberty to nominate any other member for election into the committee at the forthcoming annual meeting in February. It would certainly be desirable to give notice of such intention to the honorary secretary, Mr. H. J. Beasley, 66, Chancery Lane, W.C. 2. Now all the offices are honorary, so that the only expenses are for printing and postage, beyond the payment of grants, as authorised by the committee. The claims this year have been exceedingly heavy, and timely assistance has been given to those applicants whose cases have stood the test of enquiry. On this account the funds of the Association require to be liberally supplemented if the good work is to be continued.

NITRATE BATH.—*Purification of Same.* With an old printing bath having a degree of concentration equal to 120 grains to the ounce, probably the best way would be to evaporate it down to dryness and heat the residue just to the point of fusion in a good porcelain dish. This would destroy organic impurities and get rid of free acid; but before doing this, however, we should be inclined to test a portion of the silver bath by diluting with an equal bulk of water, and shaking it up with kaolin. If paper sensitised with it prints well, be content to use it up in this way.

W. M.—Your manuscript will probably be accepted and utilised later on. The subject is one which does not urgently demand consideration at the present time.

G. L.—*The Oxford Photo-Prints.* The prices demanded for reproductions from the Bodleian manuscripts are certainly very moderate:—Three shillings for a 10 by 8 negative, and four pence for a silver print taken therefrom. Platinotypes and carbon prints of the same size are charged ten pence each. One hundred collotype prints, with clean margins, can be had for twelve shillings in addition to the price of the negative. Application to be made to the Controller of the University Press, Oxford, who is prepared to give estimates for larger sizes.

B. & S.—*Photo-Enamels.* You might enquire, in the first instance, of Mr. A. L. Henderson or Mr. C. A. Rudowsky. If neither of them will undertake your commission, apply to MM. Benque & Cie, of Paris.

J. T.—*Parent Society.* The premises are already open daily from 2 p.m. at 50, Great Russell Street. Nominations for new council must be sent in by Wednesday next, 21st inst., addressed to the assistant-secretary.

H. F. SMITH.—*Developers.* Want of intensity in your case is due probably to the use of a weak developer, especially during this cold weather. The remedy is obvious. Both plates have recently given us excellent results.

M. P.—You are mistaken; the rainfall of last year was *below* the average, although July was so wet.