

the student must now rely for the success of his picture upon the pose and general composition, for it is there where your originality must be brought to bear. A larger aperture should be used than for landscape work, where definition of distance and surroundings is not so much an object, for when figures are your subject your background requires keeping back, and adds boldness and relief to your figures. Many pictures are spoilt through using too small a stop, thus bringing distance equally sharp with your subject, which frequently comes out weak, flat, and devoid of all contrast. Briefly referring to genre pictures, such as a reproduction of a group of children—whose object is to release the boat from its fixed position—is clearly shown in a picture. Many difficulties will have to be contended with, for as a rule each member tries to make himself more prominent than the rest by getting as near as possible to the centre of your instrument, and gaping into the lens with that pertinacious curiosity which is so irritating to the student, and so fatal to the ultimate result. His or her attentions must be at once directed to something else; give each of them something to think about, or something to do; humour or bribe them when necessary. Having then succeeded in getting them all pursuing their vocations in an easy, unconstrained manner, a quick exposure will do the rest. For pictures of this kind the best results are gained with a sharp shutter exposure on an extra rapid plate, when the movements are actually in motion. Single figure studies, although requiring greater care and attention in the arrangement and posing, are not so troublesome; still, on the other hand, greater care and attention must be observed, and the rules of art more strictly attended to; the surrounding must be in keeping with your subject. The dress of your model should be considered; one in light colour should be placed with dark accessories, and in like manner a figure in dark attire against a light background.

Presuming, therefore, that you have made a selection of your model, you should now focus carefully on some object in the position which your figure will occupy, so that you may avoid wearying or taking up their time in trying experiments upon them. Should you have a friend with you, make use of him for your preliminary arrangements. It is as well here as in groups to have your model in the act of some employment and perfectly natural, being careful at the same time to avoid all semblance of forced or artificial posing, otherwise you are not likely to get a pleasing and easy realistic picture. The exposure should be from two to three seconds, with an open aperture, and a slow plate is much more preferable for this work. The exposure, of course, depends a great deal upon the quality of the light, a subdued light being the best. On no account ever attempt to take a picture with sunlight striking on your sitter or figure. Of course these are merely hints and suggestions from the experience of one man only, but there is no system that is infallible, and it may be useful to know of one which has not altogether been an absolute failure. In cases of failure, which we all have at times, you must repeat the same subject again and again, provided it is one deserving of trouble. In conclusion, I should recommend you to study art if your aim is proficiency. The artist studies how he can get certain effects. Why should not you?

In a series of competitions to be held by the Newcastle-on-Tyne and Northern Counties Photographic Association, the class for the best six lantern slides will be open to the world, and two silver medals will be at the disposal of the judges.

MAGIC LANTERN MISSION.

MR. W. T. STEAD has asked us to give publicity to his proposed scheme for a national society of lanternists. At the time when he first ventilated the subject, we expressed the conviction that lantern entertainments were already somewhat overdone, and that he had long ago been forestalled in many of his suggestions. We further expressed the opinion that it was far better to make use of existing agencies for the manufacture of lantern slides than to endeavour to create new sources of supply. There is something unseasonable in thinking of lantern matters in the month of June, but we comply with Mr. Stead's wish in reprinting the following article from his publication, *Help*:—

PROPOSED NATIONAL SOCIETY OF LANTERNISTS.

I wish to appeal this month to all who are interested in magic lantern work to send me their views as to whether, if a sufficient number of names could be got together of persons who volunteer to co-operate in carrying out the objects of the Magic Lantern Mission, it would be feasible to form a Lanternist Society, having its headquarters in London, with branches in all the more important districts throughout the United Kingdom, the special points to be kept in view being:—

- (a) The combination and concentration of individual effort for promoting the education and recreation of the people by the aid of lantern services, lectures, and entertainments.
- (b) The stimulation and cultivation of slide painting and reproduction as an art.
- (c) The establishment of a system of exchange bureaus for the interchange and hiring of slides and the diffusion of lantern literature.

The lines upon which such a society should be formed are essentially those which permit of the closest co-operation between its members for the purpose of carrying on the mission. Unlike, therefore, most other societies of the kind, it would fall short of the attainment of its object if its members were dependent upon meetings held at lengthened intervals. On the contrary, its success will depend upon the personal co-operation of the members in their own particular district. Thus, in reality, such a society would consist of an amalgamation of "live" branches, each of which would form in itself an independent organisation. Meetings would be held in the large centres at regular intervals to consider the best means for carrying into effect the needs of the various branch missions embraced by the particular area.

A Central Committee of Management.—The management of the Society would be vested in a central committee, or council, having its headquarters, for convenience, in London. Such committee would be popularly elected from year to year, and would be empowered to deal with the subscriptions of members or other funds received for the benefit of the Society.

Annual General Meeting.—In order to maintain the working standard of the Society, and for the interchange of ideas for the widening of its basis, as also for the strengthening of the bond of good-fellowship which should bind the members together, it would be necessary to hold an annual general meeting of the Society at headquarters. To this annual conference of lantern mission workers it would be feasible, as well as advantageous, for the members to delegate one or more trustworthy and competent member of their body to represent their views and requirements. In this manner it would be secured that the uttermost extremities of the Society, to which circumstances of distance, &c., would present obstacles to personal attendance, would be adequately represented.

Working Expenses.—The working expenses of the Society would have to be arranged on a plan which would take special cognizance of the wants of a particular district. For many reasons it is obvious that a settled subscription should be paid by each member, and that the amount should be fixed at as low a figure as would be consistent with the due fulfilment of the Society's aims. Whatever sum may be agreed upon as