

AFFILIATION OF SOCIETIES.

The following circular has been issued by the Parent Society:—

50, Great Russell Street, Bloomsbury, London, W.C.

DEAR SIR,—A general desire has for some time been expressed that some closer union of the photographic societies of the United Kingdom should be brought about for the better promotion of their common interests.

Taking this into consideration, a committee was appointed by the Photographic Society of Great Britain to examine the question and report upon it. By direction of the Council, a copy of this report I have now the honour to enclose you herewith.

Will you kindly bring the report, together with this letter, to the notice of your members on an early opportunity, in order to elicit their views upon the subject, and then let me know the result.—Yours truly,

A. M. MANTELL, Capt. R.E.,
Hon. Sec.

AFFILIATION.
Preliminary.

On the 11th November last, a circular respecting the foundation of a photographic institute was approved of at the meeting of the Photographic Society of Great Britain, and at the next meeting was ordered to be forwarded to the photographic societies in Great Britain.

Replies from fourteen societies were received, and the whole question has been further considered by the council of the Photographic Society of Great Britain.

In the meantime, an independent scheme of federation was drafted, and invitations were sent to the London societies to send delegates to a meeting, at which the subject was to be discussed.

Some of the London societies nominated delegates, and a committee was selected to draft a scheme, which was done, but from the first there seemed a strong feeling in favour of the initiative being taken by the Photographic Society of Great Britain.

This committee of delegates, at its last meeting, dissolved itself, but with a renewed expression of opinion that the Photographic Society of Great Britain should definitely take up the question of affiliation, and an endeavour was made by the delegates present to pledge two members of the council of the Photographic Society of Great Britain, who were informally at the meeting, to take action in this direction.

The committee of the council of the Photographic Society of Great Britain appointed to consider the matter have constantly had the whole question before them, and, in view of these decided expressions of opinion, a preliminary report was submitted to the Society at the meeting on April 13th, which has since appeared in the photographic journals.

This report was of a tentative nature, intended to elicit the opinions of those interested.

The result has been a consensus of opinion that a closer union of photographic societies is desirable, and that the Photographic Society of Great Britain should take the lead in effecting it. Under these circumstances, the committee, which at first consisted of Sir H. T. Wood, Mr. Leon Warnerke, and Mr. G. L. Addenbrooke, was, by resolution of the council, further strengthened by the addition of Mr. W. Bedford, Dr. G. Lindsay Johnson, Mr. W. E. Debenham, and Mr. A. Cowan.

These gentlemen, having given the matter their careful consideration, have embodied their ideas in the following report:—

Report of Affiliation Committee.
June 9th, 1891.

Although it is now clear that there is no immediate prospect of carrying out the whole of the objects originally included in the scheme of the Photographic Institute, yet some of the advantages which the Institute was intended to confer on photographers could be secured by a scheme of affiliation to the Photographic Society of Great Britain, and this without any great expenditure either of time or funds, by utilising the machinery and facilities at the disposal of the Photographic Society of Great Britain.

As this matter concerns the advancement of photography

and the benefit of photographers generally, the committee recommend that the Photographic Society of Great Britain should allow its rooms to be used as a centre, and should arrange the office work necessary for a federation of societies, as the secretaries of the Society occupy a position to conduct with advantage the correspondence and negotiations by which a system of affiliation may be established and worked. A subscription from affiliated societies, &c., will be necessary to cover the cost of clerical labour, postage, office expenses, &c., involved, and as a contribution towards publishing the Society's Journal, which would be supplied to affiliated societies, and would thus become the organ of the affiliation, in addition to its present purpose.

Affiliation would be by the Council of the Photographic Society of Great Britain. All affiliated Societies would have a voice in the management. Delegates appointed by the Societies should meet in London not less than once a year to determine the lines of action, and would appoint a permanent sub-committee to supervise affiliation work for the next year, and to carry out resolutions passed by the assembled delegates.

It is undesirable to hamper the initial stages of affiliation by too strict definitions or restrictions. As the movement is of a novel character it may be expected to develop itself in the best way as it goes along. As a preliminary step, however, the following prospectus has been drafted, which, with a copy of this report, it is proposed should be sent to all photographic societies to invite co-operation and support.

Scheme of Affiliation.

The object of affiliating all photographic societies is to promote co-operation with one another and with the Photographic Society of Great Britain for the advancement of photography, and for the promotion of mutual interests. The following desirable objects of attainment may be enumerated:—

1. Assisting societies in obtaining and interchanging lectures, papers, lantern slides, examples of good work, &c.
2. Facilitating the holding of local exhibitions.
3. Arranging for the provision and exchange of dark rooms for the use of members in local centres.
4. Extending the applications of photography to industrial purposes, and in such directions as local surveys, photographing and preserving photographs of ancient buildings, and architectural and archaeological records.
5. Assisting scientific research in photography and kindred sciences.
6. Assisting the Photographic Society of Great Britain in its endeavour to promote photographic technical education.
7. Co-operating with the Photographic Society of Great Britain in securing a universal adoption of photographic standards for lenses, screws, size of plates, formulae, &c.

To carry out these objects efficiently a united effort on the part of existing societies is essential.

The assistant-secretary of the Photographic Society of Great Britain, who will co-operate in carrying out this scheme, will be in attendance at the rooms of the Photographic Society of Great Britain every week-day (with certain exceptions to be arranged later on) from 2.0 to 9.30 p.m., and may be consulted by members of affiliated societies, and will also reply to any communications which may be addressed to him by the secretaries and members of affiliated societies.

The secretary will try to bring societies desiring lectures on particular subjects into direct communication with persons willing to lecture, and will be glad to receive, either as a loan or as a gift, interesting lantern slides, which may remain at his disposal, either permanently or for a time, so that they may be lent to Societies holding lantern exhibitions.

It is suggested that prize pictures and examples of processes might be collected, which would be at the disposal of societies and circulated amongst them, so that all members might have a chance of seeing examples of the best work from time to time; and this, it is hoped, would help to raise the standard of photographic work generally.