



MAGIC PHOTOGRAPHS.

The magic photograph is almost as old as photography itself, and yet there are many, especially the younger photographers, that do not know how much fun may be got from it during the Christmas times.

Here is one method that will afford amusement for a whole evening: Print on any good silver paper from a lot of portrait negatives, both male and female. Without toning, fix and wash well, and then immerse in a solution of mercuric chloride, corrosive sublimate, till the image disappears, and dry. Before fixing, it is necessary to privately mark the prints, so that the male shall be known from the female. Then make something like a book the leaves of which are of white blotting paper, and before going to the party see that they are moistened with a solution of hyposulphite of soda.

Thus equipped, when the time comes, assume the roll of a seventh son of a seventh son, and offer to show those present the he or she that is to be. Produce the prints, holding them like a pack of cards, and let each draw one, taking care that the males draw from the female, and *vice versa*. Perhaps it is better to let only one draw at a time, so as to prevent fingering the cards. Then, opening the book, ask the holder of the card to place it between the leaves, and to place his or her hand on it while you say any rigmarole that occurs to you, taking care that it is long enough to give the hypo time to reproduce the image. This will be of a sepia color, and to those who do not know the trick a source of both wonder and amusement.

ORTHOCHROMATIC PHOTOGRAPHY.

The most timely article in recent photographic literature is that on this subject in the *Photo-Minature*. I have long wondered why it is that photographers continue to employ an admittedly imperfect plate when one that is very much more perfect is offered at the same price. The ordinary plate does not reach much above the F line of the spectrum, the blue-green; and the luminosity of the colors above that, is represented only by the white light reflected from them; while the orthochromatics of several makers at least, reach quite up to the B or the red.

It is true that for the best results with those plates they should be employed in conjunction with a color-screen; but surely that is no reason why the next best, which, without it, is very much better than what can be got on an ordinary plate, should not be secured.

I shall return to the subject in a future record, and, in the meantime, recommend my readers to study the article in *Miniature*.

ANOTHER NEW METHOD OF COLOR PHOTOGRAPHY.

British photographers have been for some time in a state of expectancy regarding a new method of color photography, or, more correctly, a new method of coloring photographs, which, as usual, was to put all its predecessors in the shade; and equally, as usual, when seen in the light of the patent specification, the performance falls short, very far short, of the promise.

Vicol is the name by which the new printing paper is to be known, and it seems to belong to the bromide or velox family, the difference between it and its kind being the fact that by the application of two colorless solutions the prints may be colored to various shades of blue and red. The following extract from the patent specification will show the nature of the invention, and that tinting rather than coloring, in the ordinary acceptation, is the actual result:

"Boil one ounce of litmus in six ounces of water till it is dissolved, and when cold filter. This is to be added to the sensitive emulsion with which the paper or other surface is to be coated, in about the proportion of forty to sixty, the depth of the tints subsequently obtained depending on the proportion of litmus solution to emulsion. The emulsion is to be applied and the photograph produced in any of the ordinary ways; and the whole or any part thereof may at once be changed to red or blue, the former by a five per cent. solution of citric acid, the latter by a solution of the same strength of caustic soda, applied by a camel-hair brush or other suitable means."

THREE-COLOR PROJECTION.

The specification of Friese Green's English patent for his novel method of color projection from one negative and one positive, has been published; and if it be all that he claims, it will be one of the wonders of the time.

Briefly, a suitable orthochromatic plate is exposed in an ordinary camera through an ordinary lens. Before or behind the lens is caused to revolve a transparent disk, divided into three colored sectors, red, green and blue-violet, the sectors being arranged in size so as to give uniformity in photographic action, the green, according to the statement, being half the size of the red, and the blue-violet very much less than the green. Mr. Green prefers to make the disk in the form of a cell, divided by rubber radial lines, and filled with suitable solutions, but it is evident that it may be made of suitable colored glass. The disk is caused to revolve by a cord, pulley and crank, or by a suitable coiled spring.

The negative thus produced is said to be a suitable colored record, and a positive printed from it in the ordinary way, when shown in the lantern, with a similar disk before or behind the lens, will appear on the screen in all the colors of nature.

Of all the various three-color methods, this is surely the simplest, and if it answers the purpose; as I see no reason to doubt, and such disks become articles on sale, as they then surely will, the days of uncolored slides will soon be things of the past.

DR. JOHN NICOL.