

The Amateur Photographer.

Photography Simplified.

With Notes on Pinhole Photography.

(By Barclay Hector.)

Introductory.

It matters little to the photographic novice how the lens forms the image, why plates must be developed and fixed, or why papers have to be toned. He wants to know the shortest cut towards obtaining moderately good records of scenes, etc., with a minimum of technical knowledge. For this reason I recommend him to use 1 plate, the "Imperial Special Rapid"; 1 developer, "Burroughs Wellcome's Tabloid Metol-Hydroquinone"; and one paper, "Leto Seltona." The special rapid plates, because most amateurs are anxious to take subjects which require rapid exposures, and in nine cases out of ten, if they took these with slow plates, under-exposure would result, and even slight under-exposure cannot be satisfactorily rectified. The Tabloid developer, because it is much handier and saves weighing of chemicals; and, one greater advantage, the solutions made from the tabloids do not vary in strength. The Seltona paper I recommend, because with very little practice in printing the results are certain, and are obtained with a minimum expenditure of both time and money.

Usually the beginner is taught in the first place how to make a negative, and afterwards how to take a print from that negative. I do not recommend this. I would strongly advise him (before attempting any other branch of photography) to buy a packet of Seltona paper, some Hypo, and a printing frame, and to borrow from a friend who is an advanced photographic worker a first-class negative; to print from this negative according to the directions given later on, and so get used to the quality of negative requisite to give good prints. He will then have a better idea as to the kind of negative to be aimed at.

It may be as well to give a summary of all that has to be done, from the time of making up one's mind to "go in for" photography.

First of all it will be understood that a half-plate ($6\frac{1}{2}$ in. x $4\frac{3}{4}$ in.) outfit costs more, both in initial and subsequent expenses, than does a quarter-plate ($4\frac{1}{4}$ in. x $3\frac{1}{4}$ in.); so that the first thing to decide is not merely as to the ways and means, but also as to whether the extra expense will be warranted in view of the prospective work. Personally I prefer the quarter-plate for

taking ordinary topographical records, such as most amateurs wish to obtain; and a quarter-plate picture can always be enlarged. I would ask my readers to bear in mind that no more picture can be got on a half-plate than on a quarter-plate with the outfits as usually supplied by the makers. True, the objects in the half-plate are, of course, larger in reality, but not in proportion.

Secondly, those who do not know a camera from an enlarging box would be wise to get a photographer friend to help in the selection of a camera. By way of suggestion, I would name the following

answer the purpose well enough. Say 2/- for this.

Next, dishes. For developing get a deep porcelain dish, 5in. x 4in. (inside measurement), and for fixing get a Xylonite dish, $8\frac{1}{2}$ in. x $6\frac{1}{2}$ in. The former will cost 1/-, the latter 2/-. The advantage of having so large a fixing dish will be apparent later. (For half-plate size 7in. x 5in. porcelain and 13in. x 12in. Xylonite, 1/9 and 8/6.)

Now for a lamp. A folding fabric lamp is all that is necessary, price 3/-; or a japanned tin lamp with ruby glass, say 5/-. In either case, as we are to use rapid plates, it will be well to buy a piece of yellow



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quarter-plate cameras as being quite satisfactory:—

"Folding Vida," with Ensign Symmetrical lens, complete with 3 double dark slides, case and tripod.

Costing about £2 5 0

"Century," with Rectilinear lens, complete with 3 double slides, case and tripod.

Costing about £3 10 6

"Promo," with Rectilinear lens, complete with 3 double dark slides, case and tripod.

Costing about £3 10 0

(These can all be used as hand or stand cameras. Do not be persuaded to purchase a box-form hand-camera.)

Although I have included the tripod in the estimate for each of the above sets, the tripod for the first named will have to be selected separately. Let it be light but rigid. Two fold is better than three-fold.

A focussing cloth will be needed. If means will permit, have a "Paragon"; if means will not permit, have any thickish black cloth (3 feet square), which will

fabric to put round, or in front of, the red fabric or tin lamp, as the case may be. This may cost 1/-.

Plates. Be advised, if it is hoped to benefit by the instructions given later, and buy a box of "Imperial Special Rapid Plates," 1/3 (half-plate size, 2/6). Do not put the box out in the sun.

Chemicals: two only. (a) A box of Burroughs Wellcome's "Metol-Hydroquinone" Tabloids, 1/6; and (b) 1lb. of Hypo, 3d.

A four-ounce glass measure, 1/3, is most necessary, and a glass rod, 6d., is handy.

Two more things, if you have not already got them, to complete the list. A printing frame ($4\frac{1}{4}$ in. x $3\frac{1}{4}$ in.), "Jay Nay" pattern, 1/-; and a packet of "Leto Seltona" printing-out paper (glossy, matte, or antique-white), 1/3; (half-plate size, 1/9 and 1/3).

Dark Room.

The plates when removed from box and unpacked will be affected by all light except ruby, or ruby and yellow mixed, and they are even somewhat affected by