

## Societies' Meetings.

### BATH PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY.

A MEETING of this society was held at 34, Gay Street, last week, Mr. Philip Braham, F.C.S., in the chair. Several letters were read from eminent photographers, expressing regret at being unable to attend the meeting, and wishing the Society a career of prosperity. The rules framed by the Provisional Committee were discussed, and with slight modification accepted as the laws for the government of the Society.

Canon Williams, Capt. Molesworth, Messrs. C. H. Talbot (Lacock Abbey), Walter Pitt, A. J. Janvrin, Friese Greene, W. Harbutt, J. Dugdale, D. Sydney Horton, H. J. Walker, G. Spengler, A. W. Yabsley, W. Middleton Ashman, and the Chairman took part in the discussion.

Upon the proposition of Mr. Friese Greene, seconded by Mr. Walter Pitt, a vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. C. H. Talbot for honouring the Society with his presence.

Mr. Talbot said that when first Mr. Ashman communicated with him he was doubtful whether he could be of any service to the Society, as he was not a practical photographer, but after further correspondence and the perusal of the report of the previous meeting, which appeared in the photographic and local press, he felt that he could be of some use, as he possessed materials of great interest to any one compiling the real history of photography. He could not say that he had never used a camera; his achievements hitherto had been very small owing to his health, but what he could do to forward the progress of photography he would, as far as his health permitted, and through the agency and instrumentality of this society he thought he could bring forward some things likely to be very useful. He had with him a few specimens of engraving, which, if the Society liked, he proposed to present. They were the outcome of a process invented by his father and produced by Monsieur Dujardin, of Paris, from some very clear transparencies on glass by a French process. These specimens would serve to illustrate the degree of perfection arrived at in 1866, and show that the process can be worked advantageously. Since his father's death there had been a book published by Tissandier, and there was an English translation issued by Sampson, Low and Co. He did not think that this work gave sufficient credit to his father, Fox Talbot, and the English publishers wished his father to write an appendix for the second edition. His father completed two parts before his death, and a third part was completed by himself, but he did not think the book had a large circulation. M. Dujardin wrote to Dr. Parker for a copy of his father's portrait, and that gentleman communicated with him. He referred M. Dujardin to Moffatt, of Edinburgh, where he obtained a print. In subsequent letters he stated a desire to reproduce his father's portrait by his (Mr. Fox Talbot's) process, and he wrote him that he considered his father to be the veritable inventor of photography, which was exceedingly pleasing to him, coming as it did from a Frenchman. Still, he should like it to be known that his father and Daguerre were both discoverers of a photography essentially different.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Talbot for his present, and said he hoped the Society would also receive a portrait of Mr. Fox Talbot, which was kindly promised.

Mr. Friese Greene said the examples of photo-engraving, just presented by Mr. Talbot were quite equal to any platinotype or other process now worked. He heard it mentioned the other day at the Royal Society that Fox Talbot's paper on Lenses, read before that body, contained so much that was valuable to opticians that photographers would do well to study it now.