

at the house of the Society of Arts. At that time nearly all the photographers expected to be patted on the back, and as they did not get it, my address, which was in print, never appeared in the papers, as the photographers had stopped the account, but they could not stop another in a lecture I had then to give. I hope every gentleman present will come to see the exhibition of the Photographic Society of Great Britain, to be opened at Pall Mall next month. We get a great number of appliances as well as pictures, and I have reason to believe that there will be as great advances as in the past. I should like to see this proposed Bath Society enter upon and do its work so thoroughly as to have a claim on the parent Society. Is there one of us who is not anxious for progress? Strive to excel, and then you will be doing fairly towards this fair city to have a society. I would ask you to love our art, and help each other; let no bitter jealousies creep in; let A beat B if he can, but let it be done in a friendly way. The Chairman then related an anecdote in which Ross, Beck, and other opticians were pitted against the opticians of France and Germany in the production of the most perfect microscope. After a very close competition the honour fell upon the English microscope, a medal being awarded at the 1851 exhibition to a class of instrument which left its rivals far behind. He hoped something of the same kindly feeling would be emulated in this new society. Do not enter upon a society lightly, said he; think that there is some work to be done. Go in for success, and success depends upon everyone feeling that as a band of brothers they will work together. Better not enter into it at all than fail. To members of Committee or Council I would say: If you take office be regular in your attendance at meetings. An absentee may ask to have the minutes of a meeting at which he was not present read, but he cannot understand the subject so well as if he had attended. If you do wish to accept office never omit the meeting of Committee. I do think a society would be for the good of the city. With these few remarks I should like to elicit opinions. If the men who have taken it in hand will think that they are not likely to put it aside to-morrow, but look well after the interests of the Society, it will do well.

Mr. Friese Greene was constantly meeting with amateurs who wished for information on development and other matters of photographic interest, which a society here could easily furnish. The history of photography was much associated with Bath. Fox Talbot and Sir J. Herschel had done their early photographic work here, and a great many experimentalists had at different times resided here. He had often talked over the subject, but a bite was now given by Mr. Ashman having got this meeting together. He (Mr. Greene) knew of several who had received letters to be present, but they were unable to attend. When it became better known that a start had been made he was sure the movement would receive good support, and be an excellent thing for Bath.

Mr. P. Braham remarked that one of the first points to consider was, should the Society be exclusively amateur or mixed? He thought there should be no exclusiveness whatever. Either amateurs, professionals, or ladies should be admitted. There were many ladies in Bath who would like to practise photography, and who would assist materially in the success of the Society, as they had already done in the Bath Microscopical Society, with a result that they had added much to the general knowledge of microscopy. If they could avoid eclaiscism the Society must prove an advantage.

Mr. Austin King, before offering an opinion, desired to know what form the Society would take.

The Chairman could only say that the proposition was to admit all interested in the advancement of photography, and to frame it on as broad a basis as possible. Nearly every city and town had a photographic society, and he considered it advantageous to the parent Society that this was the case. It gave them more work to do, and science was advanced.

Mr. G. F. Powell had been an amateur photographer for twenty years, and now belonged to the "Bristol Society," which have lately embraced the title of "West of England." This Society held outdoor meetings in the summer and indoor in the winter. He had many times thought it would be a good thing if a photographic society could be started for Bath. It had been said that a mixed society had not been found to succeed.

The Chairman: The broader you make the basis the better. Summer outdoor meetings are very enjoyable, and the results of those who can go out often pleases those who cannot attend. There are some secrets in every trade and profession—in the

optician's workshop, the photographer's, or anyone else's, and in my time I have been made acquainted with many an one, but directly I pass the threshold it is sacred with me. It ought always to be so. Professional and amateur photographers each have special advantages in different directions, and can if they will help each other. I will now ask you to express by vote whether you are in favour of a society being founded in Bath.

The decision was unanimous in the affirmative.

Then, said the Chairman, every society must be governed by rules. I would recommend that three gentlemen be appointed to draw up rules, and these be submitted to you for approval. What shall be the name of the Society? Bath must be first; can we do as Mr. Powell inferred Bristol has done, assume so much and include "West of England" in the title? Upon the whole I think the "Bath Photographic Society" is as good as anything you can select.

This title was agreed to. The amount of annual subscription was fixed at half a guinea. Messrs. Austin King, Philip Braham, and W. Middleton Ashman were elected unanimously a committee to prepare rules.

The Chairman expressed a hope that when he visited Bath again he should find the Society prospering—that there would be no clique, for cliques were a curse to any society. He always welcomed ladies to their meetings, and when they paid to see the pictures hanging on the Exhibition walls their money was as good as anyone else's. Do not confine your work, he said, to an exhibition of pictures, but have apparatus as well.

Mr. P. Braham felt sure this inaugural meeting of the Society appeared in a state to do something useful and scientific, owing to Mr. Glaisher having taken the chair. There was not another individual in England who could have given such advice and helped them so much in the same time. He concluded by proposing a very cordial vote of thanks to Mr. Glaisher for presiding.

Mr. Austin King, in seconding the vote, said it was unnecessary to say much on behalf of such a vote. Mr. Glaisher's great fame had spread throughout the length and breadth of the land. He was much charmed at the manner in which he had introduced the subject—important in itself as well as to mankind.

The vote was carried by acclamation.