

In another column we report the proceedings of the Bath Photographic Society. The rules have now been determined upon, and those wishing to be enrolled as members may send in their names to Mr. W. M. Ashman, 34, Gay Street, Bath. The object of the society is thus stated:—"For the advancement of photography, the discussion of papers, and the exhibition of all matters of interest connected therewith." We note there is no exclusion; the society is open for ladies and gentlemen, whether amateur or professional. The rules are short, well thought out, and drawn up with considerable liberality. We foresee a large field of usefulness for the Bath Photographic Society.



Now that Platinotype prints are so general, some effort should be made to mount them more artistically; the preponderance of white and grey is distressing to the eye and contrary to the canons of art. Surely from the noble army of amateur photographers someone will come forward and show us a mount which, without being obtrusive, shall harmonise more faithfully with the delicate tone and gradation of the Platinotype print.



The following extract from the *Globe* rightly shows the position that the amateur photographer occupies in the eyes of the public:—

"To-day the international show of the amateur photographers begins at Vienna. It is no longer the fashion to sneer at the amateur photographer, just as a few people nowadays jest at the cyclist. He has his organ, the AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHER, and his club, the Camera Club. When a man has an organ and a club, nothing but a policeman or a Eurysthenes can make him unhappy. By this time, too, the amateur photographer has got over his earlier weaknesses; his photographic teeth are cut, he has had his photographic measles 'favourably.' He no longer aspires to take all his nearest relatives, and gets sulky when they do not recognise themselves. To be sure, he still monopolises the bath-room and every convenient washhand basin with his bottles and processes; but by a severe treatment of throwing all foreign matter out of the window, he is being gradually cured of his weakness. And now that he has to some extent purged himself of his contempt of conventionalities generally, we may fairly admit that the amateur photographer is really a very excellent artist. He enjoys leisure, which is beyond all things favourable to the cultivation of art. He has extended his idea of 'subject' from the nearest churchyard to bits of sylvan beauty and pictures of the *genre* order, and innumerable ladies and gentlemen of taste and talent are now working in these artistic fields. We are far from decrying the work of our excellent professional photographers; but it must be admitted that the amateur has taught them much. The happy accident of many an amateurish failure has often suggested the idea of great professional success."

