

thing of the personal history of those pioneers in technology who have been so largely instrumental in bringing one of our staple industries to its present pitch of development.

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#### AIDS TO PHOTOGRAPHY.

- (1) *The Year-book of Photography for 1906-7*. Edited by F. J. Mortimer. Pp. 618. (London: The Photographic News, 1906.) Price 1s. paper, 1s. 6d. cloth.
- (2) *The Photographic Picture Post-card*. By E. J. Wall and H. Snowden Ward. Pp. 104. (London: Dawbarn and Ward, Ltd., 1906.) Price 1s. net.
- (3) *Magnesium Light Photography*. By E. J. Mortimer. Pp. 88. (London: Dawbarn and Ward, Ltd., 1906.) Price 1s. net.

(1) THE present number is the forty-seventh issue of this hardy annual, and the amateur or professional photographer will not have much to complain about when he has entirely digested its contents. In its present form it is a mine of photographic information, and contains data which are indispensable to every worker. Thus there are useful hints for negative making and finishing, complete and up-to-date directories of the photographic societies of the United Kingdom, a collection of useful recipes, formulæ, and reference tables of general use for every kind of work.

In addition to these and many other data which are valuable to the working photographer, there is a series of very interesting and helpful articles. These have been written by such well-known men as Robert Demachy, Walter Benington, George E. Brown, E. J. Wall, and others, and are on those particular subjects which have brought their names in the front rank. Two full and very practical articles on bromide and gas-light printing are contributed by the editor, and these contain much that is new and useful to the practical worker.

In fact, the volume should naturally find itself in the hands of every photographer, and is an indispensable book of reference. Sixteen full-page illustrations on art paper accompany the text, and an excellent index completes the volume.

(2) In this book the authors describe the making of picture post-cards from the initial sizing of the card down to the finished article. The beginner should find no trouble in following the instructions laid out, for the authors have described the various manipulations in clear and concise language.

Chapters are devoted also to photomechanical processes of producing a number of cards of one subject and to colouring post-cards, while part ii. of the book deals with such information as how to publish the cards, how to sell rights of reproduction, &c. Those who have a fancy for printing their negatives in this manner will gain some useful wrinkles by carefully reading this guide.

(3) Mr. Mortimer describes another phase of camera work which is as useful to the amateur as the professional. Mr. Mortimer does not let the worker take much for granted, for in these pages he refers to nearly every kind of subject that may be met with,

from a flower study in a studio to the stoke-hold of a warship. The value of the text is very much enhanced by some excellent illustrations indicating not only the relative positions of camera, subject, and flash-lamp, but the actual results produced in these circumstances.

Beginners and others will do well to read this book, which embodies the results of one who has had a very wide and successful practical experience in this branch of the subject.

#### OUR BOOK SHELF.

*The Rusts of Australia; their Structure, Nature, and Classification*. By D. McAlpine. Pp. vii+349; plates, 55. (Melbourne: R. S. Brain, Government Printer, 1906.)

THIS book is published by the Department of Agriculture of Victoria, and represents the labour of many years on the part of the Government pathologist (vegetable). The first part, up to p. 75, contains much useful matter, although, of course, only a summary of the work of others. The second part is also necessary and useful, but contains some serious blemishes.

The author records sixty-three new species, the majority of which are more or less unsound, being simply forms of the same fungus growing on different hosts; and when, as on pp. 160, 165, the hosts have been incorrectly determined, the fungi have been given incorrect names. The author does not err alone in this matter, but the better botanists set their faces strongly against this practice of naming parasites according to their hosts without any experimental inquiry as to whether the same fungus might not infest many hosts, as in fact they do in many cases, and can probably be caused to do in still more. The seventy-two rusts recorded in Cooke's "Handbook to the Fungus Flora of Australia" are now increased to 161, but it is difficult to say to what extent this merely represents records of previously known species on new hosts. In some cases the new species are supposed to be distinguished by minute differences in the shape and character of the spores. Yet on Plate xl., p. 320, are figures of abnormal spores of one species giving a greater range than that which in others makes new species. A good instance of the confusion which arises from the system of naming is given on p. 169, where four names are inextricably entangled, and the author solves this difficulty by creating a name of his own, and so making matters worse for subsequent investigators.

The coloured plates are good, with the exception of Plate i., which is useless for fungal diagnosis. There are far too many photomicrographs; a few give verisimilitude to a paper and confirm the *bona fides* of the author, but good hand drawings are always better for reference if they can be relied on.

On the whole, there can be no doubt that the book is a useful one. A few typographical errors, such as *Schelhammera* for *Schelhammeria*, are unavoidable in a work of this kind, but our author is mistaken in supposing that the Kew index is an infallible guide in questions of synonymy and in the naming of species. It would have been better, both from the scientific and economic points of view, if the work on which the book is based had been more experimental and less taxonomic in character. Probably the author felt that owing to the amount of ground to be covered only a general review of it