Hail! noble messenger of truth!
A stranger, yet we welcome thee;
The promise of thy early youth,
Doth tell of rich maturity.

We hail thee as a beacon light,
To guide and cheer us on our way;
Thy gentle beams salute our sight,
As dawning of a brighter day.

Here knowledge is no longer sealed,
For thou dost come with open heart;
Improvements, here, we find revealed—
The march of Science and of Art.

This book, to our fraternity,
Is like a choice, a bosom friend;
Then all, who would its value see,
Should quickly for the Journal send.

Our infant Art is "bound to shine,"
When present things shall fade away,
The impress of the "face divine,"
Enduring still, shall mock decay.

Come, brother Artists, lend your aid
To give our cause a growing fame,
Your efforts will be well repaid,
'Tis worthy of your highest aim.

Yours fraternally,
W. B. DEANS.

Black Stain for Apparatus.—Dissolve gum shellac in alcohol, or pocure some shellac varnish at the druggists, stir in lampblack, and apply with a sponge or bit of rag. This will adhere to metal, as well as wood, and is used for the inside of camera tubes, &c.

Wax for Sealing Bottles.—Melt together six parts rosin and one beeswax, and add a small quantity of lampblack; or, if red is preferable, add red lead. Common white wax is best, as most chemicals act less upon it.

The hyposulphite solution should be filtered through a sponge every time it is used.

A good picture is the result of caution.

OPERATING.

EXPOSURE OF THE PLATE TO MERCURY.*

The lamp is to be lighted and placed under the bath before commencing to operate and kept constantly burning. When the thermometer reaches the right point, the blaze must be so regulated as to maintain it at that point during the day. The exact temperature proper to maintain with a given time of exposure can only be found by trial, as the scale varies considerably in different baths. In general, with short exposure, it will be found between seventy-five eighty degrees. The manner of fixing may be this: Assume some point, say seventy-five degrees, and while standing at that, expose the impression two minutes. If the time in the camera was right, and the impression shows an excess of mercury lower the temperature; if a deficiency raise it. We invariably expose two minutes, adapting the heat to produce the proper effect within that time, and having found the point, note it on the scale once for all.

For various reasons, we prefer a high temperature and short exposure. It accelerates the process. It renders the lights of the picture more strong and clear, while the deep shades are more intense. It gives a finer lustre to the drapery. The solarized portions also are very seldom blue, especially after gilding. If heated too high however, the light parts become of a dead chalky white, and the shadows are injured by numerous little globules of mercury, deposited over them. Just the right quantity of mercury leaves the impression of a translucent, purplish white tone, which improves in the highest degree in gilding. To mercurialize with exactness is a nice point. If you have reason to suspect having timed rather short in the camera, red-

* See page 18 of this Journal.