

geographical distribution, were:—From the Malay Peninsula, 593 piculs; from the Johore Archipelago, 1,269; from Sumatra, 1,066; from Batavia, 19; from Borneo, 55. The price at Singapore was originally eight dollars per picul; it rose to twenty-four, and fell about the middle of 1848 to 13.

The commotion among the human race in the Archipelago was great, but the vegetable kingdom suffered most by it. In the course of three and a half years 270,000 were destroyed.—*Mechanics' Mag., Lon.*

IMPROVEMENT IN PHOTOGRAPHY,

BY W. H. HEWITT.

This improvement consists in using the vapor of ammonia, as an object to accelerate the action of light upon the plate. The effect is produced upon a simple iodized plate, but still more upon a plate prepared in the ordinary way, with both iodine and bromine. By this means, the author obtained impressions instantaneously in the sunshine, and in five to ten seconds in a moderate light; and he hopes to be able to take moving objects. It can be applied by exposing the prepared plate over a surface of water, to which a few drops of ammonia have been added, (sufficient to make it smell of ammonia;) or the vapor can be introduced into the camera during the action. In fact, the presence of ammonia, in the operating-room, appears to have a good effect, as it also neutralizes the vapors of iodine and bromine that may be floating about, and which are so detrimental to the influences of light upon the plate.—*Phil. Mag., Nov., 1845.*

All water should be filtered before washing the impressions on the Daguerreotype plate.

Daguerreotypes are best appreciated when our friends are lost.

* The best index of the mind is a Daguerreotype of the face.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

Our correspondents will bear with us in number, as many answers have been crowded for want of room. It frequently occurs that several subscribers write us on the same subject, as one answer will be sufficient for all, we do this means, as it saves time.

G. L. R., Ky.—We read your letter with pleasure. "Accelerating buffs" you will find No. 1, as also "dry quick."—Let us have your letter, and hear from you often.

A. R. W., Mich.—You are in error. The camera was not described in the Journal.

J. B., Penn.—The Journal was forwarded in order, and you can rest assured that letters of character of yours, will be answered, by so doing every subscriber will see our opinion.

You say, "In the first place, I cannot get expressions of the whole person; or, if I do, they are faint, and appear to be covered with a mist or film."

This may arise from an excess of quick, or bromine; but, in your case, we think it is occasioned by new buffs. (See page 91, answer to R. R.) You might institute a regular course of investigation, after this manner, commencing where trouble is most likely to occur:

- 1.* Are the plates well cleaned?
2. Is the iodine dry?
3. Is the quick battery of the right strength?
4. Have the plates lost their sensitiveness by being many times exposed to mercury?
5. Is the buff dry and clean, and free from grease?

By adopting the above method you will be enabled to arrive at the difficulty.

"Secondly, my plate always become overexposed, the mercury showing upon the plate very distinctly. I have changed the temperature to every degree, and yet the same result is produced."

The difficulty is not in your mercury; you may look in vain for any other result so long as you are troubled with the "mist or film" on your plates.

"I have cleaned my plates, thoroughly polished them in the best style; have tried different coatings, with the same quick, and also with different quicks, and yet I have failed to remove the difficulty. My buffs are new, and I think free from grease or dust. My plates are good, and the chemicals and materials I use are the same as used by Artists generally."

* System of Photography, second edition, page 76-78.