

thrust over the edge of the structure. The other theory is that the train bore the wrong signals, thus warranting the towerman in turning the switch for the curve. In either case it is plain that the motorman, who disappeared immediately after the accident and has not yet been found, ran his train at a dangerous rate of speed when he saw, or should have seen, the signals set for the curve instead of the straight track. Whether the towerman was responsible or not, the motorman is blamable for his reckless running regardless of signals. Had he slowed down on seeing the curve signals he would merely have run around on the wrong track, being later forced to back up to obtain his proper line.

"Thus in any case the combination of a deficient human agent and a deficient construction is presented, for if the curve had been properly built no mistake of either motorman or towerman, or both, would have resulted in disaster. And in the adjustment of the case it is to be hoped that the courts of New York will find a way to hold to a full degree of responsibility those higher officials of the line whose duty to the public requires them to adopt every device known to engineering science which will safeguard human life."

As regards punishment, the opinion is freely expressed that claims for damages to the amount of \$500,000 or more will probably be filed against the company. Several papers, however, think that somebody should wear stripes for this affair. So thinks the *Providence Journal*; and the *Boston Transcript* says:

"The *Railway Gazette* recently tabulated twenty-five derailments and twenty-three collisions on railroads in this country in the month of July last. There was an average of one death a day, which was considered 'a good showing' in comparison with reports of other months. Yet it does not appear that our courts have been overworked with the trial of cases to determine who was responsible for these accidents, or for the punishment of those so responsible. In England, when anybody is killed in a railroad accident, somebody is very likely to go to jail. In this country such a result is the exception. We find too many excuses for the human carelessness which is the prime cause of our railway accidents.

"The New York case affords an opportunity to test the sufficiency of our laws relating to accidents; if the laws are not tested, it will be the fault of the authorities of that city, and to let a person responsible for such a disaster as that of this morning go unpunished is merely to put a premium on carelessness in railroad management."

SOUTH CAROLINA'S DISPENSARY SCANDAL.

AN investigation of the workings of the State Dispensary in South Carolina has uncovered a system of graft, corruption, and bribery at which the local papers stand appalled. "The dispensary," declares the *Columbia State*, "stands alone, unrivaled; the world's matchless grafting-machine"; and the *Charlotte Observer* remarks that it is "one of the most elaborate systems of grafting in modern times." South Carolina for over twelve years has been trying the dispensary method of dealing with the liquor traffic, in which the State controls and conducts liquor-selling, the profits going to the public treasury. Senator Benjamin R. Tillman, the father and chief defender of the system, and other promoters held that this scheme would drive liquor selling out of politics, reduce drunkenness, and free the traffic generally of political scandal and social demoralization. Nevertheless, almost from the day that the system went into operation, we are told by the *Charleston News and Courier*, "charges of corruption have been laid against it," but the people were "not allowed to suspect that dishonesty could enter the dispensary."

For nearly a month a committee has been investigating the workings of the dispensary. It is shown that positions with the dispensary were bartered and sold for money. Mr. Toland, a former dispenser at Spartanburg, told of his actual payment of \$275 and a gold watch to secure a dispensary job. Even the \$50 clerkships were bought or sold. At Spartanburg the committee uncovered a scheme to buy the support of the *Spartanburg Journal* in the fight against prohibition. A fund of \$400 was to be raised for the purpose. The testimony shows also how the liquor concern boomed their own candidates for dispensary positions,

and in many cases furnished the campaign funds. There was sharp competition to gain the patronage of the State Dispensary Board, whose duty it was to distribute the stock to the dispensaries. In brief, dispensers accepted presents from whisky-dealers as pay for favoritism; received bonuses and bribes for pushing certain brands of whisky, by selling to the agents of such whisky the empty cases for three or four times their value. Sometimes the empty bottles were sold to the agents for from 20 to 35 cents a dozen.

In South Carolina there is now a strong movement to close up the dispensaries, and Senator Tillman proposes to leave the question to the Democratic primary. The prohibitionists are confident that their cause will win if presented to the people. Probably the best that South Carolina has to say on the subject is found in the debate that has been going on between George B. Cromer, a prominent prohibitionist of that State, and Senator Tillman, both men using the *Charleston News and Courier* as their mouthpiece. Mr. Cromer writes, in part, to Senator Tillman:

"Our Supreme Court, in its famous decision upholding the constitutionality of the dispensary law, laid down the following as a fundamental proposition, and said that if this proposition is not true the law is unconstitutional: 'That liquor, in its nature, is dangerous to the morals, good order, health, and safety of the people, and is not to be placed on the same footing with the ordinary commodities of life, such as corn, wheat, cotton, tobacco, potatoes, etc.' Kansas says to her children, 'The liquor traffic is dangerous and ought to be prohibited.' South Carolina says to her thousands of school-children: 'The liquor traffic is dangerous to the morals, good order, health, and safety of the people, and therefore we will sell liquor and get all the money we can for the schools.'

"The business of the saloon-keeper was becoming disreputable in this State, and saloon-keepers were beginning to find it difficult to justify the business in the eyes of their children. The dispensary system attempts to make the traffic respectable and reputable. How can the children in our schools answer the sophistry of the argument that whatever contributes to the support of the school is good and wise? I lay it down as little short of an axiom that any restrictive scheme that takes control of a traffic that is dangerous to the morals of the people, and controls it in such a way as to make it reputable, is a vicious and dangerous scheme."

A portion of Senator Tillman's reply follows:

"The dispensary law properly administered does reduce drunkenness. It does conduce to temperance and good morals, and teaches men the uses of liquor rather than the abuses of it. That the State board of control is now under suspicion of corruption, with many things pointing to the belief that the suspicion is well grounded, and that the local dispensers have been debauched because of the lax administration or maladministration of the law, proves nothing.

"Everybody recognizes the evil of drunkenness, and how to minimize or to prevent it is the whole question. You say prohibit the sale. I say sell by bonded officers, under stringent regulations, in the daytime only, and have the law enforced; the profit, which is an incident and not a purpose in this sale, to go where it is most needed; that is, into the school fund of the State. It would make no difference if it went into the fund of the general treasury, and the school fund increased from other sources. But that is a subterfuge. No one drinks any more or patronizes the dispensary because the profits go to the school fund. I can not see any harm or sin in obtaining revenue from a traffic that is irrepressible. The United States Supreme Court protects each citizen in the right to import for his own use, and no law of the State can prevent it. The poorer and more ignorant classes, who can not thus obtain liquor, have been, and always will be, supplied through some local agency, no matter what the law against selling liquor may be. . . . The dispensary system does not rest for its support upon the money that it brings in. It rests on the claim of its defenders backed by experience of our people and statistics, as affording more protection against the vice of drunkenness than any other system, prohibition or license either.

"If it has done this in spite of maladministration and mismanagement, what would it not do if such men as Dr. Cromer and his friends would give to the enforcement of the law their great moral support?"

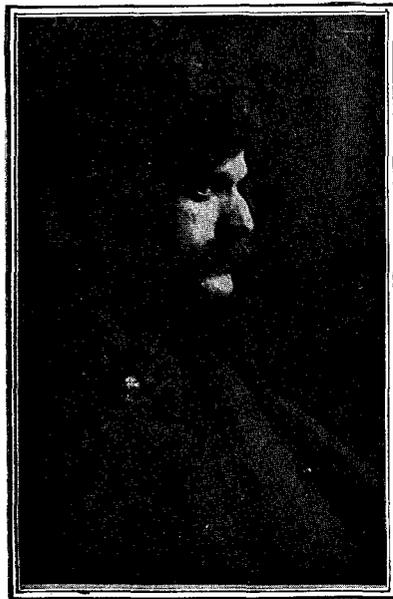
LETTERS AND ART.

ARTISTIC PHOTOGRAPHY IN AMERICA.

NOT a few will read with surprise the suggestion of Mr. Charles H. Caffin, one of our best known art critics, that as a medium for rendering the subtleties of light the camera may yet prove its superiority over the brush. It is from Rembrandt and Velasquez and from Whistler, in their interpretation of light, writes Mr. Caffin, that those American photographers who approach photography as an art "are seeking and will discover their best inspiration." While foreign photographers, as a rule, continues the writer, show more regard for "composition" and more taste in choice of subject, "the American photographer, like the American painter, is apt to show preference for technical problems." And the technical problem which chiefly occupies the American picture-maker, the problem of light, is, according to Mr. Caffin, "the one in which photography will ultimately manifest its most individual and characteristic possibilities."

These statements are found in a special number of *The Studio* devoted to a discussion of "Art in Photography," to which Mr.

Caffin contributes a sketch of the development of this new art in the United States. Side by side with the advance of painting in America since the Centennial Exhibition of 1876, he tells us, has gone a development of the artistic side of photography. From a tendency at first to imitate the effects of other mediums, such as water-colors or crayons, artistic photography has now turned its attention toward the discovery of its own distinctive possibilities. To-day the serious student of photography, writes Mr. Caffin, "when he has turned to painting for instruction in artistic matters, has sought to



MR. ALFRED STIEGLITZ,

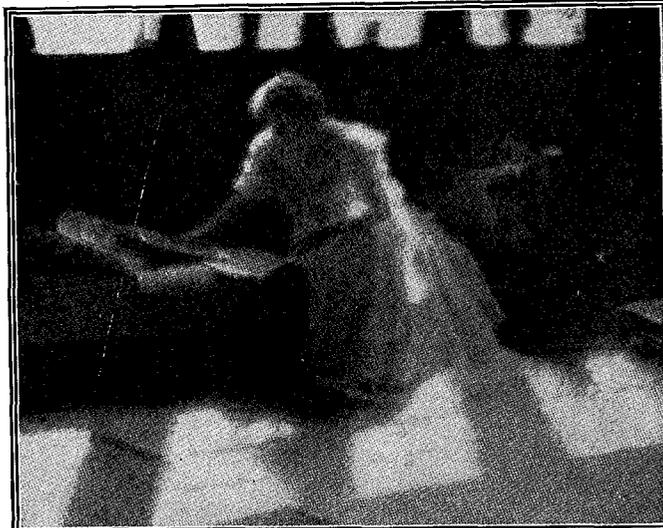
Editor of *Camera Work*, who has played a leading part in the development of artist photography in America. He stands for "the integrity and independence of the photographic medium."

emulate neither the technique of painting nor the manner of various painters, but has borrowed and adapted to his own medium the general principles applicable to all forms of pictorial representation"—those of composition, chiaroscuro, atmospheric and textural illusion, color, tone, and values. He says:

"In adjusting their pursuit of these qualities to the characteristic possibilities of the camera, the best American photographers have put themselves in line with the most modern workers in painting. For the latest phase of the latter, the most important contribution of the nineteenth century, is the closer analysis of the action of light, especially in relation to the rendering of atmosphere and values; and the best American photographers, recognizing that light is their palette, have, as a body, ventured further in the direction of these qualities and achieved more success, I am inclined to think, than those of Europe. At any rate, to appraise their work justly one must realize that the attainment of these qualities has been their first pursuit, and that by means of them they have sought particularly to make their prints embody personal expression. In many cases, no doubt, this motive of the subtle rendering of the 'values'—a term, by the way, which has a different meaning here from what it has in England, being used to discriminate between the various modifications in the quantity

of light reflected from every object and the variations of local color effected by the intervening planes of the atmosphere—has led to certain deficiencies in American prints.

"They are apt to exhibit a lack of regard for form; to be deficient in 'tactile' qualities and in structural force; in fact, to slur

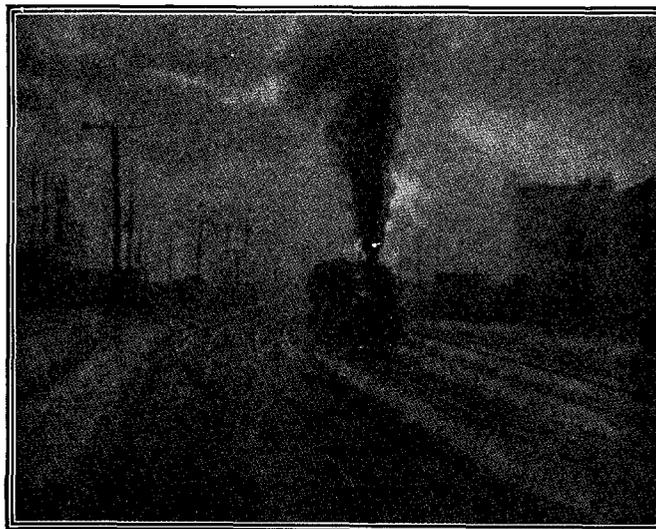


THE PORTFOLIO.

By Clarence H. White.

over the architectonics of actual building up of the composition, and to be satisfied with the surface appearances; perhaps, in consequence, a little overburdened with emotionalism—in a general way, too feminine in character. Indeed, I believe it would be just to state the matter more strongly and admit that in a greater or less degree, these deficiencies characterize a large proportion of the best prints which have been produced in the United States. The result is that a number of them together may produce an impression of tentative effort and experimenting, rather than of solidly achieved results."

These shortcomings, Mr. Caffin asserts by way of abatement, are the very result of tireless experimentation, inducing in its turn



THE HAND OF MAN

By Alfred Stieglitz.

"an alertness to impressions, a spirit of investigation, . . . that represent a very appropriate attitude toward an art still so young as photography." The consequence is that "you are likely to find more evidences of originality, and more food for conjecture as to whither the art may ultimately tend, in a collection of the best American prints than in a corresponding number of foreign ones." As to the methods by which the more advanced photographers achieve their results, Mr. Caffin writes:

"These are for the most part based upon the recognition of the