THE ART OF PROJECTING. A MANUAL OF EXPERIMENTATION IN PHYSICS, CHEMISTRY, AND NATURAL HISTORY WITH THE PORTE LUMIERE AND MAGIC LANTERN

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The Art of Projecting. A Manual of Experimentation in Physics, Chemistry, and Natural History with the Porte Lumiere and Magic Lantern by A. E. Dolbear

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A. E. DOLBEAR

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THE ART OF PROJECTING.

3 Manual of Experimentation

PHYSICS,

CHEMISTRY, AND NATURAL HISTORY

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PORTE LUMIERE AND MAGIC LANTERN.

PROF. A. E. DOLBEAR, M.E., Ph.D.

New Edition, Bebised, with Additions.

ILLUSTRATED.

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1888.

PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION.

SINCE the first publication of this book the author has received so many commendatory letters from many parts of the world that he is fully persuaded that the book met a real want; and a sunbeam is now made useful in school work and in the study of phenomena in many places where no substitute is practicable. In preparing a new edition, some things have been added which it is hoped will make the book still more useful to such as consult it. Two things may be specially mentioned here: the electric lamps and lights for projection purposes, and the production and phenomena of vortex rings. Of the former there is pointed out what is at present practicable, and of the latter it may be said that the vortex-ring theory of the constitution of matter has so much philosophical as well as scientific importance, and the phenomena presented by vortex rings are so curious and unexpected, that the author has felt warranted in presenting what he believes to be the most complete series at present known, especially as he believes himself to be the discoverer of a considerable number of them.

Several small treatises on the management and use of lanterns have been published lately, and may be had on application to almost any of the larger dealers in physical instruments and lantern transparencies. It was not thought advisable to add anything on that subject. An excellent manual for experimental work with the lantern has been published by Lewis Wright, which every one interested in such matters should have, especially as many of the experiments described in it can be done as well or better by the use of a beam of sunlight,—the use of a beam of sunlight for projection being the peculiar province of this book.

A. É. DOLBEAR.

COLLEGE HILL, MASS., Sept. 9th, 1887.

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INDEX.

e E

Absorption spectra 1	14 Eidotrope 42
Acoustic curves	61 Electric light 9
	44 " " To project 153
	33 Electric spark, To project 166
	61 Elements, Spectra of 165
Are light, To project 1	
Land Statistical Land Commence of the	
	32 Etching upon glass 31
	07
Bubbles, cohesion of 1	68 Films, Vibration of 169
	Floating magnets 167
	49 Fluorescence 119
Camphor on water	47 Focal length of lenses 21
Camera obscura	80 Focusing
Candle power	13 Fountain, Illuminated 96
Candle power "flame, To project	tel i Franchiofer's lines
Capillarity Caustics by reflection " refraction	40
Canatios by reflection	92 Gulyanometer 147
" " achientan 1	92 Galvanometer 147 61 Gages for lime light 11
Champion for action	43 Ghost
Character rob	34 Glue Marine
Chemical tank	as Gibe, maribe
	57 Gramme muchine 9
	43 Ghost 84 34 Glos, Marine 35 57 Gramme machine 9 62 Gravitation 50
	04 Hest
Chromatic aberration, lessen-	Heat 144, 155
ing of	69 Heliostat 1
Chromatrope	42
Cloud formation 1	45 Ice flowers by
Cohesion	45 Illumination, Intensity of . 81
Cohesion figures	47 Images formed by lenses 100
College lantera	41 Incandescent electric lamp 163
Colons of the films	17 " " " If Idmn 41
Conserve mission To project	07 " " lamp fil- aments 164
Concave mirror, To project	aments
with 63, Convection in water	91 Incandescent electric lamp,
Convection in water	56 Currents for 164
" "alr	98 Interference 71
	26 " spectra 118
	26 " spectrs 118 93 Interlacing lines 70
Crova's apparatus	77
Crystalline substances for po-	Kaleidoscope
larized light	Kaleidoscope 88 Kaleidophone 57
Darkened room	5 Lamps, Electric arc 150, 100
Darkened room	
Themagagiam	Rt I Tandasana projection 120
Titiffrantion	129 "Incandescent
Diffraction	Lanterns
Dhumagnetiam Diffraction Disks for study of colors 110, Dispersion Distortion Divisibility of matter	143 " Oxyhydrogen, 12, 16, 18, 19
Dispersion	100 _ " Electric 161
Distortion	93 Lenses 19
Divisibility of matter	Blectric 161 93 Lenses 194 4 Magnifying power 33 126 Mountings for 23 134 Light 195
Double refraction	126 " Mountings for 23
Double salts, Prepared	134 Light 80
Danman and Hake	11 / Interested of

vi	INDEX.
Light, Magnesium	10 Reflections, Multiple 83
Lime	11 Refraction
" Composition of, 100, 11	11 Refraction
Polarized	, 136 Resultants
" Polarized	
Lissajous experiments	60 Salicine crystals 134
W	Screens
Mach's experiment	64 Sciopticons 18
Magnetism	140 Silver crystals
Magnetic phantom	150 Singing flames
Manometric flames	62 Sinuous lines 69
Marine glue	35 Sizes of objects and of images,
Megascope	38 To compute 171
Melde's experiment	58 Soap bubbles, Persistent 10s
Microscope, nolar	100 " " Tension of 107
attachment	49 Sodium line in solar spectrum, 170
Minute substances	133 Solar microscope 100
Mirage	96 " spectrom .*
Monochromatic light 10	122 Spectacle glasses, To test . 182 Spheroidal form
	Spheroidal form 62
Newton's disk	143 Spectra, Methods of project-
" rings	109 ing 121, 103
√ <u>0</u>	Spectrum analysis 119
Objective	25 " of sodium 121
Objects for projection	27 1 ** 14 's prepared 122
Organ nine	65 Starch
Opeidoscope	65 Starch
Outline drawings	29 Sympathetic vibrations 75
Overtoges	71
	Thermometer 144
Persistence of vision	139 Total reflection
Pepper's ghost	84 Tuning forks
Plateau's (experiment)	56 Tuning torks
Polarization of light	127 Vibrations of strings A9
Popostes	45 " " forks 57
Perceity	2 Vision, Persistence of 139
Porte Lumiere, To make	
" " its use	24 Vortex rings, To produce 172
Porte Lumieres, various pat-	their phonom-
terns	2, 3 ena
Projection with single lens	24
" condenser.	27 Water, Decomposed 153
or large apparatus,	
tical	
Pyrometer	145 Waves in water
Jan arranger er en	Whirling-table attachment . 77
Rainbow	100
Reactions, Chemical	157 Zoetrope 140
Reflections	84
	I DSD SECIET
	900
	9

(b) e

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THE ART OF PROJECTING.

A MAGNIFIED image of a picture, or of any phenomenon, when thrown upon a screen by means of sunlight, and lenses, or with a magic lantern, is called a projection.

When sunlight is to be used for this purpose, it is necessary to have some fixture to give the proper direction to the beam. The heliostat and the porte lumiere are the devices in common use. The latter was the earliest form, and was invented by Gravesand, a Dutch professor of natural philosophy, in the early part of the last century. It was afterwards reinvented by Captain Drummond, an Englishman, who called it the heliostat. The latter term is now only applied to an automatic arrangement, by which a mirror is moved by clockwork in such a way that a beam of sunlight reflected from it may be kept in one direction all day, if it be needed so long. Silberman and Foucault have each devised very satisfactory instruments, but they are too costly to be owned by any but the wealthy; the catalogue price of the cheapest of these being five hundred francs. C. Gerhardt, of Bonn, however, makes a small one, carrying a good mirror three inches in diameter, for twenty dollars.

THE PORTE LUMIERE - HOW MADE,

The porte lumiere is made of various patterns by different makers, but the differences consist chiefly in the devices for giving proper movements to the mirror. Their cost is from ten to twenty dollars according to their size, workmanship, and attachments. On the opposite page are engravings of several such as are in the market. It is recommended that one be purchased at the outset, if it can be afforded, but as many who would be glad to work with one may not be able to purchase it, directions will be given for making one that will enable any person who is familiar with the use of carpenters' tools to make one at a trifling cost that will answer for many purposes.

The room in which the porte lumiere is to be used must, of course, be one into which the sun can shine. A room having windows only upon the North side, evidently cannot be used at all for such a purpose; one having windows only upon the East or upon the West side could be used only in forenoon or afternoon; while one with windows looking to the South can be used nearly all day. Choose then that window where the sun is available the longest, and opposite to which can be stretched the screen to receive the projections upon. Next, take a well-seasoned piece of pine board a foot or more in width, and an inch thick when dressed; cut it to the length of the width of the window sash, so that it may fit into the window frame, and the sash be brought down upon it; this will keep it tightly in place. With the compasses, scratch two concentric circles in the middle of the board, one with a radius of four inches, the other with a radius of four inches and a half. Saw out the inner circle completely, and cut the other but one half through the board, and then cut away, making a square rabbet, as shown at b b. Next, take a round piece of inch board of the same diameter