

On Exhibition at 83, Regent Street,

W.

EDISON'S LATEST WONDER

THE KINETOSCOPE.

SCIENTIFIC men have watched and waited for the practical perfecting of the Kinetograph and Kinetoscope with keen interest and anticipation; but to the general public these machines are as yet an unexplained mystery. Therefore, a brief and simple description of Mr. Edison's latest inventions may not be out of place.

It will probably be remembered by many that while the Columbian Exposition, at Chicago, was in preparation, among the almost numberless attractions which were announced as a part of the great Exposition, a certain mysterious and marvellous invention of Mr. Edison was much talked of among those who had heard or read about the experiments and new discoveries of the "Wizard," and who understood the results which the perfected machine would produce.

Mr. Edison has proven, in his laboratory, that the perfected Kinetoscope was only a question of time, and he hoped to produce a practical exhibition machine in time to exhibit at the great World's Columbian Exposition. Vague rumours of a new marvel emanating from Edison's inventive brain spread like

wild-fire, and as a consequence, thousands of visitors to the Fair inquired daily at the Edison exhibits concerning the new machine, which was to reproduce moving figures and scenes before the eye, as the Phonograph reproduced sounds to the ear. But great inventions take long time, extended experiment, and large expense before reaching practical, and practicable perfection, and thus it was that the Kinetoscope was not perfected in time for the great Fair, and the eagerless anticipation of numberless Americans and Europeans were, for the time, doomed to disappointment.

But after nearly a year of experiment, test and detail work, the Kinetoscope has been perfected, and is now being exhibited for the first time in England.

THE KINETOSCOPE

This machine is in the shape of a handsome hard-wood cabinet about the size of a Phonograph. This cabinet contains a mechanical device, operated by electricity, which is so constructed as to run the films (containing the views photographed from life by the Kinetograph) past a given point at a speed of about 46 each second of time. The films pass over a series of rollers which hold them steady and secure accurate results.

In the top of the cabinet of the Kinetoscope is a small window covered with clear glass. The person who desires to witness the reproduction of the views, looks down through this window and the film passes before his eyes with such rapidity that he beholds one continuous view, which we will endeavor to explain in a practical and easily understood way.

Perhaps the most simplest method of explanation will be to describe an actual scene. Among many subjects thus far secured for the Kinetoscope is the interior of a

BARBER SHOP.

The beholder, who is looking down through the window of the Kinetoscope cabinet, sees the interior of a Barber Shop.

A man is reclining upon a barber's chair about to be shaved. The barber goes to his case, secures his cup, makes a lather with which he proceeds to lather the man's face.

Meanwhile, a colored gentleman, who is probably acting in the capacity of porter, boot-black and Jack-of-all-trades, is moving about the room. He picks up a newspaper and sits down to read it. Another customer comes in; pulls off hat and coat, takes a cigar from his vest pocket; lights it; picks up a paper and sits down to smoke, read, and await his turn. The colored gentleman aforesaid, finds something very funny in the newspaper he is reading and thereupon he crosses the room and points out the amusing article to the waiting customer. They both laugh and show every sign of amusement.

Meanwhile the barber has been shaving his man, and both the "shaver" and the "shavee" have been going through many motions, the one plainly evincing his desire to hurry through the work of shaving and be ready for the "next;" the other as plainly showing the results of this immoderate haste on the part of his "executioner," by sundry grimaces and winces when the razor takes off sections of his cuticle. On

the wall is seen the appropriate sign "With or Without Chloroform," which we can readily understand after witnessing the torture of the man in the barber's chair.

Now, it should be understood that this is not an imaginary scene, emanating from the pencil or brush of some artist; but it is an *accurate photograph of a scene which has actually taken place.*

Every movement, from the walking of the man across the floor, to the sweep of the razor, and even the very wink of an eyelash (so marvellously distinct and true to nature is the reproduction) is recorded, and is witnessed by the beholder through the window of the Kinetoscope. Even the smoke of the cigar which the man is smoking is blown across the face of the scene, and slowly disperses in the air—a most remarkable evidence of the fidelity to nature of the Kinetoscope reproductions.

This is only one of many scenes which are now being reproduced through the medium of the wonderful Kinetoscope. We may mention a few other scenes as follows :

Blacksmith Shop, Contortionist, Cock Fight, Highland Fling Dance, Saloon (where a man raises a disturbance and is unceremoniously put out), Armand 'Ary (French Chanteuse and danseuse, the latest Paris and New York "rage"), Wrestling Match, Prize Fight, Tumbler, Barnyard, Carmencita, Sandow, Boxing Cats, etc., etc.

Sandow is thus shown in his act. Every feature, every moving muscle, every wink of the eye and firm compression of the lip (when straining to produce some tremendous force), every movement of head, arm, leg and body is reproduced before the beholder's

rapt gaze, with absolute fidelity to nature and with marvellous distinctness, precisely as Sandow went through these movements before the camera of the Kinetograph.

The possibilities of this marvellous machine can hardly be estimated. Views and scenes can be taken all over the world. Anything in motion can be photographed and reproduced exactly true to nature. From the effect produced by slowly rising clouds of smoke, to the falling of water at Niagara; from the rounds of a prize fight or the heats of a horse race, to the flashing of the lightning in the cloud-beset heavens—nothing is beyond the reach of the Kinetograph and, in turn, a faithful reproduction by means of the Kinetoscope. Even a bullet, shot from a gun, has been photographed by the Kinetograph, so swift is its action.

What a detective! What an aid to science and the arts! What a recorder of scenes and events! Hereafter, that which takes place in any part of the world can be recorded permanently, and be reproduced, just as it took place, in every other part of the world. Events which people now go hundreds, and even thousand of miles to see, can now be brought to their very doors.

Moreover, in due time, the Phonograph will be brought into requisition as an adjunct to the Kinetoscope. When the two machines are united in such a way as to make their operation together synchronous and practicable, the moving figures which are imbued with life by the Kinetoscope, will likewise be endowed with speech and song by the Phonograph, and thus the world will witness the reproduction of scenes in which the moving beings are not only brought before

the eye in all the perfection of motion as the same originally took place, but also endowed with the attributes of speech and song—in a word, walking, moving and talking human beings, just as we would see and hear them were we near the scene of their action.

This is not an imaginary and fanciful prospect; it is a consummation which has already been proven practicable in the laboratory of Mr Edison, and our faith in his genius is so great that we have not a shadow of doubt that the results here hinted at will in the near future become a *fait accompli*.

The Kinetoscope is now on exhibition to the public at 83, REGENT STREET.

TO THE LADIES

Ladies are specially invited to these exhibitions, Ladies without escorts need not feel any timidity or restraint about attending, for these exhibitions are in charge of ladies and gentlemen, and the surroundings will be found all that a refined or even fastidious person could desire.

INTERNATIONAL KINETOSCOPE CO.

83, Regent Street, W.

GENERAL SELLING AGENTS.

BENNETT, FINCH & Co., Printers &c., 3, Maiden Lane, Queen Street, E.C.