

The entrance to the photographic exhibit and demonstration of Messrs. Johnsons of Hendon, Ltd.

Future Photographers!

A visit to the National Schoolboy's Own Exhibition

THE Schoolboy's Own Exhibition is an annual event in London which is looked forward to by the average schoolboy living within reach with probably as much enthusiasm as the circus and pantomime. It is only in recent years, however, due to the foresight of Messrs. Johnsons of Hendon, Ltd., that a photographic section has been included in the Exhibition, and this has proved so popular that we decided this year to pay a visit and take a look at this future generation of photographers. The Exhibition opened on December 31st, and up to the first week-end an average of twelve hundred boys and girls a day had passed through Messrs. Johnsons' exhibit. On the day of our visit, the following Monday, the number was actually 1,760. The schoolboy's curiosity to see "how it works" is insatiable and the adjacent alternative attractions of a "space-ship" to be explored, and a large ice-cream stand, did nothing to prevent an almost constant queue in response to the legend displayed high on the photographic stand, "Photography is no conjuring trick... Come in and see it done!" The animated figure of a magician, resplendent in top hat and gown, gave point to the first remark, his right hand rising and falling to uncover and cover again several photographic prints standing on his "table."

It took about twenty-five minutes for each group of twelve to fourteen youngsters to go through the six sections of the exhibit. In the first section they were introduced in general terms to photography and told something about exposure. They then passed to the next section, where they saw a short film showing how to process negatives, using a tank (a boy was the principal actor). In the next two

sections, illuminated with safe light, they were introduced to contact-printing and then enlarging; the contact-printing section was equipped with a dozen or more printing boxes with which, after a preliminary demonstration, they were each able to make a print and see it developed and fixed. In the fifth section they were introduced to flash and, finally, they saw how to take a flash picture with a box camera, one boy in the group being called upon to take the picture and another boy acting as his model.

We were most impressed with the absorbed interest shown by the youngsters, which we have captured to a certain extent in the two illustrations below, and when we were free to think, after successfully struggling through the packed hall to the door without damage to person or camera, we left wondering how many photographers of the future will be able to say that their first introduction to photography was at the Schoolboy's Own Exhibition. If only one per cent of those who passed through Messrs. Johnsons' exhibit during the course of the Exhibition have had their interest permanently aroused, we estimate (at the time of writing the Exhibition is still running) that this will represent some one hundred and fifty to two hundred new enthusiasts—a most worthy achievement. H.H.

A particularly interesting feature of the demonstrations was that the young visitors were able to take part. On the left a group is seen exposing contact prints, taking the time from the demonstrator; and on the right, one member of the group is taking, under supervision, a flash picture of another member.

