

# Current Topics

**At the London Chamber of Commerce** on May 31st, H. Snowden Ward, reported at considerable length upon the working of the Philadelphia Commercial Museum; and especially of its Information Bureau. He showed

that this bureau, although but young, had done much to develop and create American export trade; and urged that if British traders wished to maintain their ascendancy in the world's markets, some similar institution should be at once established in Britain.

**The New Home of the R.P.S.** has just had its house-warming, and the verdict of the members is expressed in terms of surprise and admiration. There can be no doubt that the society has now a very worthy home. The ground floor provides a spacious library and reading-room, as well as extensive offices for the executive staff. The first floor has a fine meeting-room, large council-room, available for general purposes, and an office for the honorary officers. The second floor remains vacant for the present, and the third floor furnishes three fine dark-rooms, an enlarging room and housekeepers' sleeping accommodation. The basement provides ample storage, housekeeper's living-room and space for extra work-rooms if necessary.

The meeting-room and council-room are prepared for picture-hanging, and can be thrown into one handsome gallery for one-man shows or exhibitions on technical subjects; and we hear that one or two extremely interesting exhibitions of this kind are already arranged, though there is yet some time before autumn closes in.

The sketch gives an idea of the exterior appearance of the house, which, if our prediction is not falsified, will become the most notable building associated with photography. Its address is 66 Russell Square, London.

**The Article Club Exhibition** at the Crystal Palace, has three exhibits of considerable interest to photographers, viz:—a fine display of various kinds of process work, by The Art Reproduction Co., a photographic exhibit by Russell & Sons, and lens-grinding in operation by W. F. Stanley, of London Bridge. The cavalier and somewhat uncivil treatment accorded by the management to ourselves (and apparently to other press guests) on the opening day made it difficult to find what was of interest in the big show, but we think these were the only photographic items.



**The New Studio of Alfred Ellis**, at 51 Baker Street, W., is one of the most perfectly appointed suites of rooms in which a photographer could possibly wish to work. Its proprietor was overwhelmed with the congratulations of his fashionable clients and of the numerous photographic experts who accepted his invitation to an opening function on April 20th. The studio proper, which is, of course, the most important apartment, is on the first floor and is the most spacious first floor studio in London, for it is forty-eight feet long by twenty-two feet wide, and can be still further lengthened by opening the folding-doors to one of the reception rooms. An idea of its arrangement may be gained from our illustration. Electric light, as well as daylight is used, and in

every way the work-rooms are ample and convenient, while the reception-rooms and dressing-rooms are sumptuous in the extreme. Altogether, Mr. Ellis need not feel that his forced removal, because his old premises were claimed by a railway company, has been by any means an unmixed evil.