Family Portraits

By W. E. Hill

The ancient portrait—vintage 1860. There was a great stir when this portrait of Mary and Dennis, the rich old man's daughters, was first exhibited in Paris. Some said it idealized them and some said it didn't. Now that the hair and hair have gone out of style, the portrait is going the way of the ancient coins.

The bride of the nineties. Such in 1880 people said, "I have never seen a better picture of a bride. Gertrude, dear," and Aunt Gertrude sent a copy to all the relatives for a Christmas present.

The prized photographic study. This lovely pose of Cousin Dorothy took first prize at a competition back in 1910. and Dorothy was indeed grouped. Critics said it was such a natural grouping.

The bathroom. Aunt Grace and Aunt Elizabeth and Great-Uncle Jephth, awaiting distribution under the terms of a will. Cousin Addie, their late owner, having said at one time or another, "Of course, I shall leave the portrait to you," to whichever cousin or niece was for the moment in favor, there will be a certain amount of friction among the heirs when the estate is settled.

Snapshot enlargement. Aunt Hattie didn't have the least idea this was being taken at the time, which is probably why it was so good. Besides, it was so stylish (the picture hat and the Gibson roll, etc.) and looked like Aunt Hattie at her best (which wasn't much). As a matter of fact, the photographer made a neat frame put on it. It's got to the guest room wall now.

The graduation photo. Yes, this was bad back in 1927 or 1928, we forgot which year, when he had all his hair and went in for collegiate natural effect.

The comic funeral card. This amusement park photo showing Cousin Addie and Cousin Buttons in a prop ambulance with two cute boy friends was thought just a little too daring to be shown in the common herd back in 1918. But those who did see it were very appreciative. Every so often it comes to light, and then Cousin Addie and Cousin Buttons shriek, "O, how it does us; we really ought to destroy it!"

Childhood's joyous hour. This photographic portrait of Dennis and William presents what was considered the very last word in children's wear once upon a time.

The modern portrait. This likeness by a famous French portrait painter was very expensive and is therefore highly regarded in the immediate family circle.

The crayon portrait. Uncle Clark's likeness has been up in the attic for years now, but time was when it was in the parlors, and every time Aunt Minnie glanced upon the portrait in the plush-trimmed gift frame she would say, "Is it just seems as though Clark were going to speak!"

Daguerreotype. Great-Grandmother Finnegan was, an legend relates, a great beauty in her day, and all the men were crazy over her. You'll have to take our word for it, and not Mr. Daguerre's.

The profile of the nineties. "Why," people exclaimed, "have portraits painted when a good photograph is so much better!" Indeed, Aunt Francis was pretty pleased with the result herself.