WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A measuring instrument reader that acquires a measurement value from a measuring instrument in which a value indicated by a movable portion moving along a scale is the measurement value, the measuring instrument reader comprising:

an imaging unit that is fixed at a predetermined position so that the plurality of measuring instruments is within an imageable range and configured to image a plurality of measuring instruments which are located within an imageable range; and

a data acquiring unit configured to acquire the measurement values from an image captured by the imaging unit,

wherein the imaging unit sequentially focuses on and images the plurality of measuring instruments within the imageable range one by one, and

wherein the data acquiring unit acquires the measurement values from a plurality of images captured by the imaging unit.

2. The measuring instrument reader according to claim 1, wherein the imaging unit includes a measuring instrument identifying unit configured to identify one measuring instrument to be imaged and an automatic focusing unit configured to focus on the movable portion and the scale of the one measuring instrument identified by the measuring instrument identifying unit and images the movable portion and the scale.

3. The measuring instrument reader according to claim 1 or 2, wherein

the measuring instrument is an analog flowmeter.

4. The measuring instrument reader according to claim 3, wherein the analog flowmeter is an area flowmeter.

5. The measuring instrument reader according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein a measuring object which is measured by the measuring instrument is a flow rate of a gas.

6. The measuring instrument reader according to claim 5, wherein the flow rate of a gas is a flow rate of a hydrocarbon-based gas.

7. An automatic control system that automatically controls a measuring object state, the automatic control system comprising:

a measuring instrument including a movable portion moving along a scale, in which a value of the scale indicated by the movable portion is a measurement value indicating the measuring object state;

an adjustment unit configured to change the measuring object state;

a measuring instrument reading unit configured to acquire the measurement value of the measuring instrument; and

a control unit configured to compare the measurement value acquired by the measuring instrument reading unit with a reference value and to control the adjustment unit such that a difference between the measurement value and the reference value decreases,

wherein the measuring instrument reading unit includes an

imaging unit that is fixed at a predetermined position so that the plurality of measuring instruments is within an imageable range and configured to image a plurality of measuring instruments which are located within an imageable range and a data acquiring unit configured to acquire the measurement values from an image captured by the imaging unit,

wherein the imaging unit sequentially focuses on and images the plurality of measuring instruments within the imageable range one by one, and

wherein the data acquiring unit acquires the measurement values from a plurality of images captured by the imaging unit.