sunk in the current of the tide, but the tide has toppled them over, emptied them, and passed on. There is now, we are told, hardly any obstacle to prevent a steamboat going several miles up the cut and through the breach, and paddling about the Fens. The condition of the inhabitants, not only of the inundated territory, but also of the threatened districts, is terrible. To them the age of Deucalion and Pyrrha is come back again, and the portents of the Roman poets are realities. Competent authorities, so far from being able to give any consolation, declare that the district flooded at present is nothing like so great as the area which will in all probability suffer for the next year, or even more. Such is the present state of this vast and increasing irruption.—*Times.*

Since the above was written the progress of the sea has been arrested, and there is every probability that the submerged land will soon be re-claimed.

Miscellaneous.

VALUABLE RECEIPTS.

Black Japanning.—Black grounds for japans may be made by mixing ivory black with shellac varnish, or for coarse work, lamp black and the top coating of common seedlac varnish. A common black japan may be made by painting a piece of work with drying oil and putting said work into an oven not too hot, then gradually raising the heat and keeping it up for a long time, so as not to burn the oil and make it blister.

Tortoise Shell Japan.—This varnish is prepared by taking of good linseed oil one gallon and of umber half a pound, and boiling them together until the oil becomes very brown and thick, when they are strained through a cloth and boiled again until the composition is about the consistence of pitch, when it is fit for use. Having prepared this varnish, clean well the vessel that is to be varnished (japanned) and then lay vermillion mixed with shellac varnish, or with drying oil diluted with good turpentine, very thinly on the places intended to imitate the clear parts of the tortoise shell. When the vermillion is dry brush over the whole with the above umber varnish diluted to a due consistency with turpentine, and when it is set and firm, it must be put into an oven and undergo a strong heat for a long time. This is the ground for those beautiful tea-boards which are so much admired. The work is all the better to be finished in annealing oven.

Painting Japan Work.—The colours to be painted are tempered generally in oil, which should have at least one-fourth of its weight of Gum sanderac or mastic dissolved in it, and it should be well diluted with turpentine, that the colours may be laid on thin and evenly. In some instances it does well to put on water colors or grounds of gold, which a skillful hand can do and manage so as to make the work appear as if it were embossed. These water colors are best prepared by means of isinglass size mixed with honey or sugar candy. These colors when laid on must receive a number of upper coats of the varnish above described.

Cements for Joints of Petroleum Stills.—Take 6 lbs. graphite (black lead), 3lbs. of dry slacked lime, 8lbs. of the sulphate of barytes and 3lbs. of boiled linseed oil, and mix them thoroughly together. The solid materials must be reduced to fine powder before being stirred among the linseed oil. If the above quantity of oil is not sufficient for making the cement sufficiently thin add more until the proper consistency is obtained.

Linseed meal cake reduced to powder and mixed with water so as to make it into a paste makes a good lute for stills which are not subjected to a temperature above 260° Fah.

Cement for Leaky House Roofs.—Take 4 pounds of Rosin, one pint of linseed oil, two ounces of red lead, and stir in pulverized sand until the proper consistency is secured, and apply it warm. This cement becomes hard and yet possesses considerable elasticity and it is durable and water proof.

Clear Gutta Percha Solution.—Cut gutta percha into thin strips and put it in a glass bottle, and add as much chloroform as makes a thick paste. This paste is then placed in very hot water and kneaded with the fingers. After considerable manipulation the gutta percha loses much of its color, and if this process is repeated, becomes very nearly colorless, having only a pale straw tint. A chloroform solution may then be made of any strength, which is useful for many purposes—when thin, as a substitute for court plaster, and when thick, as a stoping for decayed teeth.

To Remove Resin Spots from Silk.—Many silk dresses receive stains from turpentine being spilt upon them. These stains are due to the resin which is held in solution by the turpentine, and which remains in the silk after the volatile or spirituous portion has evaporated. Alcohol applied to the stains with a clean sponge will remove the spots because alcohol dissolves the resin. The silk stains should be moistened with the alcohol first, and allowed to remain soaked for a few minutes. Fresh alcohol is then applied with the sponge, and with a slight rubbing motion. It is then wiped as dry as possible and afterwards permitted to dry perfectly in the open air. Alcohol also removes grease and oil spots from silk and woollen dresses, but oil generally leaves a yellow stain behind. A mixture of alcohol and the refined light petroleum, called benzone, is excellent for cleaning light kid gloves, ribbons and silks. It is applied with a clean sponge. Persons who apply these liquids and mixtures to cleaning silks, gloves &c., must be careful to do so in an apartment where there is neither fire nor lamp burning, under the penalty of an explosion.—*Scientific American.*

Parchment Paper.

Ordinary water-leaf paper, as it is called, that is common white blotting-paper—says Dr. Lyon Playfair, F. R. S., Professor of Chemistry in Edinburgh :—for you know it better by that name,—is simply dipped into diluted sulphuric acid ; but the dilution must be exact. If you err on either side, even within very small limits of error, you get a waste product and not parchment paper. If your acid be too weak, you convert the paper into a gum ; and if the acid be too strong you corrode the paper, and do not get what you desire. In or-