

## OUR BLUENOSE CLUB.

We were all gathered together round the stove for a smoke and chat as was our custom. There was the mechanical superintendent of the neighboring colliery, the surgeon, a chemist familiarly known as "Test-tube" and several others.

"I say Test-tube," asked the Superintendent; "can you tell me of any cheap chemical that will protect iron from rusting?"

"Yes. Looking over a copy of the *Mechanical World* the other day I saw a notice of how Prof. Calvert has recently made the interesting discovery by practical tests, that the carbonates of potash and soda possess the same property of protecting iron and steel from rust as do those alkalies in a caustic state. Thus it is found that, if an iron blade be immersed in a solution of either of the above carbonates, it exercises so protective an action that that portion of the iron exposed to the influence of damp atmospheric air does not oxidize, even after so extended a period as two years." Similar results, it appears, have also been obtained with sea water, on adding to the same the carbonates of potash and soda in suitable proportions.

And now in return, "can you tell me how to make an emery wheel?" "Yes," said the superintendent; "I clipped the account from the trade circular of the National Emery Mills, Perth Amboy, N. J., for June, 1884, here it is:—

"Take a cast iron spoke wheel, fill it up and line with wood, secure leather bands around the periphery with wooden pegs; then cover the leather with glue, and roll in loose emery, and lay aside till dry; after which the operation can be repeated if a thicker coating of emery is desired. When the wheel is worn the glue can be washed off with hot water, and fresh glue, etc., be again applied.

Polishing wheels can be made of india-rubber, coated with emery, which enables an article of moderately irregular shape to be polished all over. Only the best glue will answer."

"By the way," said the doctor; "here are a couple of articles from the *Boston Journal of Commerce* that everybody ought to know about:—

**SANDBAG FOR THE SICK-ROOM.**—One of the most convenient articles to be used in a sick-room is a sandbag. Get some clean, fine sand; dry it thoroughly in a kettle on the stove, make a bag about eight inches square of flannel, fill it with the dry sand, sew the opening carefully together and cover the bag with cotton or linen. This will prevent the sand from sitting out, and will also enable you to heat the bag quickly by placing it in the oven or over on top of the stove. After once using this you will never again attempt to warm the feet or hands of a sick person with a bottle of hot water or a brick. The sand holds the heat a long time; and the bag can be tucked up to the back without hurting the invalid. It is a good plan to make two or three of the bags and keep them on hand, ready for use at any time when needed.

**MEDICINES IN THE HOUSE.**—A pound or so of coarsely-crushed linseed should always be kept in the house in an air tight can, also a tin of mustard and camomile-flowers, and poppy heads for poultices and fomentations. A bottle of disinfecting fluid is an excellent adjunct to the medicine chest. So is a small wide-mouthed bottle filled with the petals of the large white lily soaked in brandy. A little of the brandy applied at once to a bruise will prevent unsightly blackness, whilst a leaf laid on the place draws out inflammation. A very necessary as islant in measuring dry medicines is a pair of grain scales, with weights from half a grain to two drachms; and for liquids, a glass drop measure, and a glass tea and table-spoon measure.

"Doctor," asked one, "can you tell me how to make a room appear larger than it is?"

"Yes, Harpers Magazine publishes the following rules' :—  
"To make a room appear higher, the plane surface of the ceiling should be decreased by the mouldings of the cornice by panels, or, in the absence of these, by bands of color performing the same office. A vertical system of lines should be adopted in mural decoration, and the mantel should be lower.

To make a room appear lower, exactly the opposite treatment should be adopted; that is, to increase the plane ceiling, adopt a horizontal system of mural decoration; with a dado and a high mantel.

To make a room appear wider, is accomplished to a certain extent, by making it appear lower; but where this is undesirable, or where it is insufficient, the effect can be reached by adopting a mural decoration on a graduated scale of form, decreasing upward, so that two or more pateras at the top like those at the foot are found to occupy the same space as one at the foot, and this effect can be much increased by a gradation of color upward from dark to light.

To make a room appear narrower, is accomplished to a certain extent, by making it appear higher; but where this is undesirable or insufficient, it may be obtained by adopting a strongly drawn large pattern in strong color for mural decoration.

To make a room appear larger, is to an extent, accomplished by making it appear lower and narrower; but where this undesirable or inefficient the attempt may be obtained by decreasing the scale and strength of color of the mural decoration adopted at the ends.

To make a room appear shorter, is accomplished to an extent, by making it appear wider and higher: but the effect can be achieved by increasing the scale and strength of color of the mural decoration adopted at the ends.

Any of these effects can be modified or increased by the treatment of the floor surface; whether by the carpets, the rugs or painted boards, or by parquet flooring; lines running across a room, or rugs laid down at intervals having the effect of shortening, and consequently, to an extent, of heightening and widening a room. Lines running in the length increase this dimension, and to an extent reduce the height and width. A polished floor increases the apparent height of an apartment by reflecting all vertical lines and prolonging them.

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