

converts it into a mechanically mingled sulphate and superphosphate of lime; the phosphoric acid being thus rendered soluble and capable of assimilation by the roots of plants.—*American Artisan.*

ROAD DUST AND VEGETATION.

No careful observer will deny that the trees along much frequented roads, especially when exposed to the influence of prevailing winds, distinguish themselves in the rapidity of their growth and the luxuriance of their foliage as being more thriving than those of the neighboring wood. This fact is being ascribed to the dust from the roads which is carried and deposited by the wind upon their branches and foliage. Dry road dust contains from eight to ten per cent of organic matter, arising from the excrements of animals, from straw, hay, or grains which may have fallen from waggons frequenting the roads. After having been pulverized by carriage wheels to a fine dust, they form a large amount of already decomposed and readily soluble nourishment for vegetable growth. Roads kept in good condition, are therefore not only important promoters of the civilization of the district wherein they are located on account of easier transportation, but also because of an inexpensive but no less efficient fertilizer. It is in such, at the first apparent causes that an explanation of many of the declared mysteries of vegetation may be found.—*Manufacturer and Builder.*

HOW TO DRESS FURS.

If your suds are dried, soak in soft water, and work them on the flesh with beaming knife, or a piece of old scythe, till perfectly soft and free from flesh and fat. Then wash them good in a suds made by dissolving enough sal soda in the water to make a good suds. Take four ounces pulverized alum, eight ounces salt, one quart new milk to four gallons soft water, also one pint prepared starch; stir well; put in furs, and air them often, by hanging them across a stick laid across your tan tub, so that they will drain back in the tub. After you have handled them well several times, and they have been in about 24 hours, add to the four gallons of water half a teacupful of sulphuric acid; stir well and put back the skins, keeping them stirring pretty often for one hour; then take out, wring and rinse in soft lukewarm water; hang up in a cool place, and, when they begin to get white, work and stretch them till they are dry. Beaver and badger, and hides of such thickness, require to be in the tan sometimes a week; and your tan liquor must be strengthened occasionally by adding some more of the above ingredients. One hundred furs can be tanned at the same time, so that you have water enough to cover them, so that they will not be pressed.

When finished pluck; then heat a flat iron, and iron the fur. This will live it.

A. TANNER,
In Western Rural.

HOW TO USE CARBOLIC ACID.

A Canada paper states that Messrs. Salt of Birmingham, have constructed a very ingenious and well-designed apparatus for the vaporization of carbolic acid, by means of which that valuable disinfectant can be diffused through the rooms of a house without any of the disadvantages attending its use in its ordinary liquid state. The apparatus consists of a receptacle for the acid covered by a finely perforated lid. Beneath the receptacle is an air chamber, and beneath this chamber is a recess for a spirit-lamp. Two or three tablespoonfuls or more of carbolic acid, if in the liquid form, or a portion of the crystals having been placed in the upper receptacle, the lamp is lighted, and in a few moments the acid begins to evaporate and the vapor is diffused into the atmosphere of the apartment through the perforated plate. The apparatus will be found an excellent addition to the sick room, where it is found desirable to use carbolic acid as a disinfecting agent. Its great advantage is that it can be so manipulated as to keep the atmosphere charged with a distinct but not unpleasant odor of the acid, by increasing or diminishing the supply as may be required, and it will thus be found particularly handy and useful in private houses.

CHEAP AND DURABLE PAINT.

Take one part fine sand, two parts wood ashes, three parts slacked lime; sift through a fine sieve or screen; mix well, then stir with linseed oil to the consistency of ordinary paint; add a little lampblack to darken the colour if wanted. This, for out-buildings, fences, etc., is one of the most durable, as well as cheapest paint there is. It is also fire-proof in all ordinary occasions; is equally good on wood or brick. Apply as other paints are applied—first coat light, second heavy.—*Cor. Western Rural.*

"BLUEING" IN SUGAR.—Continental sugar-refiners have borrowed a notion from the laundress, and now give an appearance of whiteness to their product by the judicious use of a little blue. Indigo has been employed for this purpose, but it is said that artificial ultramarine, and also aniline blue, are occasionally used. To detect these, Dr. Reimann recommends that the sugar be dissolved in a small quantity of water, and the solution be allowed to stand for some time, whereupon the blue matter will settle at the bottom of the vessel. The deposit is to be separated, and then treated with diluted hydro-chloric acid. If the blue color is destroyed, and an odor of sulphurated hydrogen evolved, the coloring matter is ultramarine. If the color remain, the solution is to be filtered, and the deposit shaken up with some alcohol. Then, if a blue solution be obtained, the color is aniline blue. It is as well to say that in either case the color is quite harmless, and no one need be afraid to eat sugar so colored.