

supply many pieces. Here is a fine Sevres vase; it contains seven insects, one of which is four inches long. We first make the porcelain paste and fit it accurately. It is then colored, decorated, glazed, burnt and cemented to its place. This restoration will cost \$60.

"We have sometimes repaired articles, mostly ceramic, where our bill exceeded their real value, though by no means the actual cost of the goods when perfect. People are very often deceived in buying such things. This salver is a fine piece of work in its way, yet it is only an imitation of Sevres, worth perhaps \$40. If genuine it would bring \$200 or \$250 at auction. Our repairs will cost about \$50. It was knocked down a flight of stairs by an intoxicated footman. Some ceramic articles are sent here for repairs whose intrinsic value rests upon the fact that they are unique or at least antique. They have perhaps been manufactured or decorated from special designs, or, being true antiques, are rare. Here is a remarkable piece of old faience. It's ugly, but rare and includes an idea. The grayish patch on this side you will notice represents a spider's web, and this resplendent beetle is tangling up his beautiful legs in it. That gorgeous long-limbed owl is shaking his wise old head as he watches the game. The colors you observe are very intense and beautifully worked as to the figures, yet the rest of the vase is quite dull in appearance. It would take a large sum to buy it, however.

"Alabaster is hard to repair; being translucent, the strong cement required is apt to make troublesome shadows below the point of fracture. Here are some fine alabaster sea horses whose necks were broken in trying to support a mosaic table upon which a young man seated himself after a wine dinner. The repairs will cost \$50. It is good for my business, but I am often shocked by such things.

"Excuse me; an expressman is unloading a vase at the door. Did you hear what the messenger said? 'It must be repaired by to-morrow, sure, as it has been sold.' It is from an importing house; the vase was broken while they were loading it. It will be repaired and nothing said about breakage. This often happens. The vase, after all, will be as good as ever for decorative purposes. The cause of breakage among dealers is often bad packing. It is an error to pack

fragile goods tightly; for every jolt from without is felt within. There should be some "give" to the packing. Many people who think they have a perfect piece of faience would be surprised to learn how many times it had been smashed in say from one to two hundred years of miscellaneous handling.

Tiles and plaques of all sorts are sent to us. They are easily repaired, except where there is a loss of substance or of color. The Berlin plaques are superb, but we find them very brittle. Table or chimney-piece ornaments are more exposed to breakage, however. This royal piece of Sevres is covered with the most fanciful designs of birds, fish, reptiles known and unknown. There are some beautiful bits of color in it. It is unique, worth a large sum. I would gladly give \$100 for it as it stands, though broken in fifty pieces. A man took it down from a shelf where it had stood for fifteen years and let it drop on the hearth. The repairs will cost \$75. This Louis XVI. piece is thought to be genuine by the owner. It is pretty, but is only a German imitation. To repair it will cost \$45. A new one may be had for about \$80.

"Here is a piece of very fine porcelain, a salver, once the property of the Empress Josephine. The arms of the empire with the 'N.' and 'J.' in the centre stamps its value. Dresden ware is oftenest sent to us. On this vase we will have to replace four or five china roses. Can we make Dresden ware in New York? Well, I assure you that we shall use material in this work which cannot be distinguished from the best made in Dresden.

"This large miscellaneous lot of clocks, bronzes, silver and delf ware were taken from the debris of the Morrell storehouse fire. It is a curiously dilapidated collection, but we will be able to rescue much of it. There you see Ward's headless Indian opposite the Laocoon—the snake is missing—and a bronze mandarin is staring at the mutilated Berlin Amazon. That satyr has had his curious legs melted off, but we can easily restore them with all their pristine peculiarities.

In the lighter goods sent for repair the most elegant are fans, most of which are sent us regularly after each season. Here is a fine specimen of a fan made of thread lace and carved ivory. The fashion among ladies of carrying them dangling at their sides works very well for us. If they escape hard knocks they are certain sooner or later, to be sat upon

by their owners. This superb combination of dark pearl, lace, satin and feathers, decorated by a distinguished Paris artist, was all but ruined in that way. It is worth \$200. Our bill for repair will be \$85.

One of the finest pieces of work we have here now, is this beautiful piece of *cloisonné* and enamel. The body of the vase is of copper, but every dividing strand you see in that exquisite tracery is of gold inlaid, and the colors are scarcely equalled by any European work old or new. It is of Chinese workmanship; not even the Japanese artist can compete in this particular style of decorative art. The sides of the vase were jammed together nearly flat though bad packing, and the golden threads were forced out so you could take them up in a bunch. Each strand has been carefully replaced and enamel restored in parts. The vase stands but about fourteen inches high, but no European artist could match it short of five years of constant labor. It would pass almost unnoticed by any one not a connoisseur.

"Ah, yes, we have many valuable works of art from destruction. If we were paid in proportion to the value of our work we would do well. As it is we earn scarcely more than the wages of skilled labour. But I must leave you now to attend court in a somewhat peculiar case growing out of business. A man has lost some valuable works of ceramic art by fire. They were insured, but the company refuses to pay the amount in full, on the ground that some of the articles were lessened in value through having been previously broken and repaired. My testimony is wanted to show that the restoration was done by us. I can give no evidence to this effect. If the goods are now lost I cannot be expected to recognize my work upon them. I could not otherwise identify the goods, for if I were to keep descriptive account of the goods sent me, my books would be too voluminous to store within the city limits. We have little time to do more than receive articles, repair them, and see that our accounts are closed with cash."—*New York Sun*.

CLEANING-RAGS.—Cloths with which metallic surfaces may easily and rapidly be cleaned, are made by steeping woollen cloths in a solution of 4 grams Castile soap and 20 g. water, adding 2 g. tripoli to the solution, and dyeing it red with fuchine.