

Fine Arts.

POTTERY AND GLASSWARE.

Those who admire the beautiful in form and ornamental design will be pleased with the accompanying illustrations of specimens of the artistic terra cotta and glass work exhibited at Paris. It is interesting to note how early in the development of these departments of art industry the perfection of artistic forms was reached. The most beautiful shapes of modern times are little more than copies of antique designs. In surface ornamentation the finer glassware of to-day is infinitely superior to the old; but the forms attained by the glass blowers of Cyprus, 3,500 years ago, if Di Cesnola's estimates are correct, are unsurpassed. Many of the specimens exhibited by him, during his recent lectures in this city, were strikingly beautiful. Some of them were transparent and translucent. Originally they were colorless, but some of the more modern ones were beautifully colored. The vessels were found in tombs. They had large bodies and very small necks, and had evidently held some precious liquid perfume, which was doled out by drops through the narrow necks. Those found in damp tombs showed signs of decomposition, while those found in dry places were perfectly preserved. Roman lamps were found in the tombs. The invention of lamps had been attributed to the Egyptians. Those found in Cyprian tombs were made in moulds of harder clay, in two pieces.

The rage for art decoration among ladies of leisure has given a decided impetus to the production of terra cotta and other pottery of artistic form in this country. At the recent convention of the United States Potters' Association, the President confidently asserted that the manufacture of artistic ceramics is bound to become one of the important industrial interests of this country. The average value of earthenware and china, of all grades, imported during the past six years, is nearly a million dollars in excess of the imports of the year just closing; and during the past ten years the importations have been steadily declining. From this it appears that our potters have not only kept pace with the increase in population, but are steadily reducing the amount demanded from abroad. At present the number of potteries in the United States, of all kinds, is 777; steam engines employed 8, with a horse-power of 1,586; eight water wheels, power 122; hands employed, 6,116; capital invested, \$5,294,398; yearly wages paid, \$2,247,173; value of the products, \$6,045,586.

Miscellaneous.

TO MAKE INDIA INK.—A German paper gives the following recipe for making a deep black India ink, which will also give neutral tints in its half shades: Rub thoroughly together eight parts of lampblack, 64 parts of water, and four parts of finely pulverized indigo. Boil the mixture until most of the water has evaporated, then add five parts gum arabic, two parts of glue, and one part of extract of chicory. Boil the mixture again till it has thickened to paste, then shape it in wooden molds which have been rubbed with olive or almond oil.

A LOCOMOTIVE IN A QUICKSAND.—A locomotive went through a bridge on the Kiowa creek, 42 miles east of Denver, Col., last spring, and instantly disappeared in the quicksand bed of the creek, baffling all attempts to recover it. For the past six months the search for the missing locomotive has been kept up, resulting in success a few days ago, when it was found buried 40 feet deep in the quicksand. The sand had been removed for a great number of yards around the scene of the disappearance of the engine, a hydraulic ram being used, the locomotive being found at last after a search of six months. The instance is one of the most remarkable on record.

DAMAGED LOOKING-GLASS.—The glass should be laid on a table. With a sharp knife remove the spotted silver. Now, procure a piece of tinfoil larger than the place to be covered, lay it in a tray, and pour on it some quicksilver. Rub this over the foil. (N.B.—A hare's foot is a good thing to use.) When sufficient is spread, lay the glass on the foil, supporting the remainder so that it may lie quite flat. See that the silvered foil covers every part that has been removed, put on some heavy weights, allow them to remain five or six hours, and the glass is ready for use.

THERE is at last some hope that a uniform gauge for metal and wire will be adopted. The Birmingham Chamber of Commerce has been sending circulars out on the subject, and the chambers to which they are addressed have had no difficulty in "resolving" that it is desirable, &c. The chambers cannot do better than agree to accept Sir Joseph Whitworth's proposed decimal gauge.

A WOVEN book has been manufactured at Lyons, the whole of the letter-press being executed in silken thread. Portraits, verses, and brief addresses have often been reproduced by the loom, but an entire volume from the weaver's hand is a novelty.



DESIGNS FOR VASES.

The engraving on this page shows three elegant designs for vases in metal or ceramics. These designs are from the firm of Villeroy, of Mettlach.