

OUR BLUENOSE CLUB.

"I see," remarked the doctor one evening, "that it has just been made known that during the great volcanic disturbance at Krakatoa telephonic communication was almost impossible in Singapore, 500 miles away. On a subterranean cable, of about two miles in length, words were drowned by peculiar sounds resembling pistol shots. The phenomenon appeared to be of an electric nature, rather than acoustic."

"Doctor, will you give me a receipt to prevent nails growing in?" said Test-tube.

"There are several ways. A correspondent writes to the Boston Journal of Commerce as follows: 'A remedy which I have found effective is to soak the feet in warm water, which will soften the nail and make it more pliable; with a knife or other suitable instrument raise the ingrowing portion and press under it as much grocer's cotton twine as can be done without too much pain; change as often as necessary for cleanliness. This relieves the pressure on the flesh, allowing it to heal, and at the same time so changes the form of the nail that in a short time the string will not be necessary.'"

"What is a simple means of relieving the pain of flesh wounds, doctor?" asked Rod.

"Smoke from burning brown sugar will relieve the pain of flesh wounds."

"What is the process of metalization of wood?" asked the chemist.

"I saw it mentioned in a paper the other day."

"Rubeunick's process," said the superintendent, "is to steep the wood in a caustic alkali for two or three days, according to its degree of porosity, at a temperature between 164° and 197° Fah. The wood is then placed in a second bath of hydrosulphate of calcium, to which is added, after 24 or 38 hours, a concentrated solution of sulphur. After 48 hours the wood is immersed in a third bath of acetate of lead at a temperature between 95° and 122° Fah., where it remains for from 30 to 50 hours. After a complete drying, the wood thus treated is susceptible of a very fine polish, especially if its surface is rubbed with a piece of lead, tin, or zinc, and finally finished with a burnisher of glass or porcelain. It then looks like a metallic mirror, and is completely protected from all the deteriorating effects of moisture."

"Test-tube, can you tell me how to get a copy of writing without a copying press?" asked the doctor.

"Mix white sugar with the ink, 1½ drachms of sugar to one ounce of ink. Use this with an ordinary pen, and place over the writing a moistened sheet of unsized paper; lay both leaves between two layers of cloth; put the whole under a piece of board large enough to cover them; then put a heavy weight on the board for a few seconds, and an excellent impression will be found on the copying paper."

"I see here in the Scientific American that a new wood filler has been patented suitable for light and dark woods," remarked the superintendent, as he looked over the paper.

"What is it?" asked Rod.

"Mr. Henry Hales, of Ridgewood, N. Y., has recently patented a composition of a transparent nature for use on all woods indifferently. It comprises finely powdered soapstone or talc, finely powdered glass, and a suitable liquid vehicle of oil or varnish, the soapstone enabling the operator to obtain a better polish than could be obtained with the glass alone. The patent points out the proportions and manner of mixing and applying the composition, which is intended to impart only sufficient colour on light woods to fully develop the grain, while sufficiently transparent to leave no perceptible mark of its presence on dark woods."

Rod picked up the paper, which the superintendent had just laid down, and glanced through it.

"Hello! doctor," he cried, presently, "here is something in your line."

"What is it?" said the doctor.

"Powdered crab as a medicine," replied Rod. "Listen while I read it. 'A Russian paper says: During the last fifteen years the inhabitants of a malarial locality in the Kharkoo Government in Russia have used the crab powder with great success against the fevers. The powder is prepared in the following way: The ordinary whiskey is poured over live crabs until they get asleep, then they are put on a bread-pan in a hot oven, thoroughly dried and pulverized, and the powder passed through a fine sieve. One dose, a teaspoonful, is generally sufficient to cure the intermittent fever; in very obstinate cases, a second dose is required. Each dose is invariably preceded by a glass of aloe brandy, as a purgative. The powder is used in that locality in preference to quinine.'"

"I see it is said," remarked Test-tube, "that glass fish-globes, paper weights made of a pyramid of glass balls, and lenses of stereoscopes have been found to act as a burning glass in the sun, and to set fire to paper, cloth, etc. Brightly tinned or nickel wash dishes have been known to do the same. Such things in a house will bear watching."

"What is the standard of safety for lubricating oils?" asked the doctor, turning to the superintendent.

"The standard of a perfectly safe lubricating oil from spontaneous combustion is as follows: A mineral or paraffine oil bearing a fire test of 300° or more; an evaporation of five per cent. or less in twelve hours, and a constant heat of 130°; the greatest degree of fluidity consistent with keeping the oil on the bearing. High grade neats foot oil is sometimes mixed with mineral oil, and so long as the oils remain thoroughly mixed, as much as 25 per cent. of neats foot oil may be safely used. But five recent cases of spontaneous combustion have called attention to a tendency in these oils to separate, so that the neats foot oil has apparently been applied nearly free from mineral oil, and in such cases fire has ensued. Great care should therefore be taken that mixed oils are kept in safe condition by frequent agitation or stirring."

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