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Printed paper, in books or engravings, may be whitened when stained or discoloured by first being dampened with pure, clean water, then dipping into a solution of chloride of lime; withdrawn from the latter solution, the stained portion must be passed through water mixed with hydrochloric acid; lastly, the paper so treated has to be passed through pure water until every trace of acid is removed. The process may be still further improved by dipping the paper into a weak solution of antichlor and again thoroughly washing in clean water before finally drying. Only rare and valuable books are worth the trouble of prolonged treatment, which on account of the very fragilo nature of the paper, requires the utmost care and some skill in handling. In the great majority of cases the stains may be obliterated by simply exposing them, after being moistened, to the fumes of burning sulphur, and afterwards passing the portions treated through pure water. Under all circumstances care must be taken to prevent permanent injury to the paper by rough and hasty handling -Boston Jeur. Com.

TEST FOR LUBRICATING OIL.

Place a single drop of each of the different kinds to be compared in a line across the end of a piece of plate glass about 24 inches long, one end being placed six or eight inches higher than the other, to form an inclined plane. The drops of oil run down the inclined plane in a race with each other. The quality of the oil for lubricating purposes is shown by the distance travelled and the trace left by the drops. Thus on the first day, sperm oil will be found to be in the rear, but it will in time overtake the rest, and retain its power of motion after other oils have dried up. A light-bodied oil flows quickly like water, but also dries, whereas what is needed is a good body compared with a limpid flow. Many oils have a good body but have a tendency to gum, which will be distinctly shown on the glass.— Chemical Review,

READY-MADE WOODEN HOUSES.

Ready-made wooden houses, imported from America, says the Engineer, are selling as a novelty at Buenes Ayres. The demand for habitations at that place has been so great that the provincial government could not wait for the slow process of brick and mortar; hence ready-made houses had to be imported. The price charged for them is said to be so reasonable, that should they meet the expectations of the Argentine people, it is anticipated that a large trade in them will be done. The only fear seems to be that, owing to the heavy south-west winds which attack "La Plata," the readymade houses may be blown away.

THE ALCOHOLIC DISEASE.

An examination of alcoholic intemperance in its crigin can only terminate in one result—that is, in the conviction that it belongs, both physically and morally, to the class of formentitive or zymotic diseases. No mere deprivation of natural appetite will produce it; never does it exhibit itself till alcohol has been consumed; and what is especially to be remarked is, that alcohol acts in the production of the intemperate habit by poisoning the blood and arresting the healthy operation of the nervous system. It attacks the higher faculties; those qualities which give a moral tone, and lead man up to true happiness and a virtuous life. It dethrones reason, and retrogades its victim to the level of the brute.

In this manner, and in no other, the eraving for alcoholic drinks is produced—which is always a physical malady in its inception—until by continuous indulgence it takes a settled and chronic form, leading its victims through the stages of mania a polu, depromania epilepsy, and numerous forms of mental and physical depravity.—Quarterly Journal

COST OF GAS AND ELECTRICITY IN NEW YORK.

Stephen McCormick, Secretary of the Gas Commission has reported to Stephen McCormick, Secretary of the Gas Commission has reported to the city of New York regarding the relative cost of gas and electricity for lighting streets. The city has 647 electric lights, costing annually \$165,-308.50. These displaced 3,016 gas lamps, costing \$52,780. The Common Council has requested that 2,093 additional electric lights be put in use, displacing 5,345 gas lamps. The cost of these electric lights will be \$534,-761,50 a year, while the gas lamps over the same area cost \$93,537.50. Should the additional electric lights be authorized, there will be on Manhattan Island 2,740 electric lights, costing \$700,070, and 13,685 gas lamps, costing \$232,986.50. As the cost of lighting the Twenty-third and Twenty-fourth wards is \$117.630, the entire cost of lighting the city would be \$1,950,686.50. Mr. McCormick says that it would not be wise to remove the gas lamps in areas covered by electric lights, as there might be emergencies that would areas covered by electric lights, as there might be emergencies that would compel the city to use gas. He has not discovered any advantage that the electric light possesses except instantaneous lighting. The Gas Commission is now considering proposals from gas and electric light companies for lighting streets and public buildings for the ensuing year.

A wonderful engineering exploit is proposed in Italy, where they talk of throwing a bridge over the Straits of Messina that separate Sicily from Italy. A place where the channel is $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles wide and 361 deep is selected. Two piers will support a viaduct of rails 328 feet above the water.

A paper chimney fifty feet high has been erected at Breslau.

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