

FURNITURE POLISH.

Household furniture is readily cleaned by washing it with a little warm ale, the polish being brought up subsequently by means of a cloth damped with paraffin oil. The following has been strongly recommended for renovating old furniture and bringing up a good polish:—Take of olive oil 1 lb., of rectified oil of amber 1 lb., spirits of turpentine 1 lb., oil of lavender 1 oz., tincture of alkali met root $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. Saturate a piece of cotton batting with this polish, apply it to the wood, then, with soft and dry cotton rags, rub well and wipe off dry. Keep the polish in a stoppered bottle.

MANUFACTURE OF EBURINE.—Eburine is a composition formed from the dust of ivory or bone cemented together with gum tragacanth or albumen, and colored at pleasure. In some cases pressure and heat render the addition of any glutinous matter unnecessary.

COUGH MIXTURE.—The following is a very simple and useful remedy:—Take an ordinary white turnip, peel it, cut it in slices rather thin, lay on a dish, covering each slice with moist sugar: this will extract the oil from the turnip in about 3 hours. Take a teaspoonful when the cough is troublesome. I never knew this fail when taken in time.

NOBLE ANCESTRY.—Francis I. having asked Castelan, Bishop of Orleans, whether he was of noble extraction, "Sire," replied he, "Noah had three sons with him in the Ark; I cannot say from which of them I am descended."

FRENCH POLISH.—The article to be polished must be well cleaned and smooth, and if the grain of the wood is not close, you will have to give the wood one coat of boiled linseed oil, but it is not necessary. You must use wadding to apply the polish with, and use very little, rubbing it well in, the way of the grain; it will stand wet and all kinds of weather. Take 4 oz. rectified naphtha, 1 oz. gum shellac, $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. oil of linseed. To polish different colors, use the following powders: for a mahogany stain, sandrach; for black, lamp black. For other colors use different kinds of ochres.

REMEDY FOR BURNS.—It is not often that an inventor has such an implicit faith in his invention, or the nerve to demonstrate the fact, as Dr. Waters, of Salem, recently showed before the Massachusetts Dental Society. He stated that bi-carbonate of soda, such as is used for cooking purposes, or other alkali in neutral form, would afford instantaneous cessation of pain from the severest burns and scalds, and would cure such injuries in a few hours. Deliberately dipping a sponge into boiling water, the Doctor squeezed it over his right wrist, producing a severe scald around his arm, and some two inches in width. Then, despite the sufferings occasioned, he applied the scalding water to his wrist for half a minute. Bi-carbonate of soda was at once dusted over the surface, a wet cloth applied, and the pain, the experimenter stated, was almost instantly deadened, although the flesh on the wrist was literally cooked down to the sweat glands, and the wound was of a nature to be open and painful for a considerable time. On the day following the single application of soda the less injured portion was practically healed, only a slight discoloration of the flesh being perceptible. The severer wound, in a few days, with no other treatment than a wet cloth kept over it, showed every sign of rapid healing.

IMPROVING KEROSENE.—As a sediment chokes up the wick, it is injurious in kerosene, and if present should be removed by settling or filtration, and thus the oil improved. In regard to the explosive qualities, they will also be somewhat improved, as during the process of filtration, especially when performed in a draft of air, a certain amount of volatile and therefore dangerous constituents will be evaporated. But the evaporation may be just as well or better accomplished by placing the kerosene in a shallow vessel in the sunshine; this is the way some distillers treat the kerosene, having large shallow tanks constructed for that purpose, covered with white muslin to keep out dust, and being exposed to sunlight, they claim that it also bleaches the oil.

THE LONGEST BRIDGE IN THE WORLD.—It is claimed by the English that last year they completed the longest bridge in the world, in their East Indian possessions. The building of it occupied four years. It consists of 64 spans of 142 feet each, thus 9,300 feet, or more than $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles long. It is all built of brick and iron; the masonry amounts to 5,000,000 cubic feet, while the iron girders weigh 6,000 tons. The Philadelphians claim that in the Girard avenue bridge over the Skuylkill river, they possess the widest bridge in the world, it being 100 feet wide.

PHOTOGRAPHY IN DISEASE.

We have in photography an excellent means of determining the condition of the blood. According to its quality, the blood deposits more or less impure material in all the cellular tissues. Such deposits occur also in the sebaceous glands of the skin, which secrete a natural fat and deposit it in the mucus layer between the true skin and epidermis. Although the color of the mucus layer is visible through the epidermis, its finer shades are not seen in this manner, yet they appear in the photographic negative with such sharpness that the slightest impurities are here apparent as dark specks.

This phenomena is due to what may be called the photography of the invisible—that is, to that remarkable property of light by virtue of which the chemical action of color rays falling upon the plate varies with the rapidity of their transmission to it. It is interesting to observe the accuracy with which the condition of the skin is thus shown, varying as the shade upon the plate does, from the utmost delicacy and purity to a peculiar sieve-like character—that is, appearing as if punctured with innumerable little holes; these in the worst cases being irregularly united, so as to present a more or less ragged and unsightly appearance. After a person has taken fat, beer, tobacco, and other like injurious substances into the system, even for a little time, the negative exhibits this punctured appearance; while in the case of those whose manner of life is wholly corrupt, these defects are often magnified into such blotches as are seen upon the face itself in skin diseases. — *From Schlickeysen's "Fruit and Bread," translated by Dr. Holbrook.*

THE WAY GOLD CHANGES COLOR.—It is well known, says the *Jeweler*, that the human body contains humors and acids, similar in action to, and having a like tendency towards, baser metals, as nitric and sulphuric acid have, viz., to tarnish and dissolve them, varying in quantity in different persons; and of which theory we have abundant proof in the effects which the wearing of jewelry produces on different persons. Thousands wear continually, without any ill effect, the cheaper class of jewelry with brass ear-wires, whilst if others wore the same article for a few days, they would be troubled with sore ears; or, in other words, the acids contained in the system would so act on the brass as to produce ill results. Instances have occurred in which articles of jewelry of any grade below 18 carat have been tarnished in a few days, merely from the above-named cause. True, these instances are not very frequent; nevertheless it is as well to know them, and they are sufficient to prove that it is not in every case the fault of the goods not wearing well—as it is generally called—but the result of the particular constitution by which they are worn.

HOW POISONS ARE SPREAD.—G. Owen Ross, Consulting Physician to Gny's Hospital, London, has called public attention to some unexpected sources of arsenical poisoning. The green calico lining of bed curtains has been found to have produced, for months, severe symptoms, which were treated as those of natural disease, without benefit to the patients. When the curtains were removed the patients at once recovered their health. The beautiful pale-green muslin, largely used for ladies' dresses, has been found to contain not less than 60 grains of the arsenical compound known as Scheele's green in every square yard. He suggests that, in order to prevent much of the nausea, vomiting, headache, inflammation of the eyes, etc., from which so many suffer, there be a prohibition of the manufacture of such deleterious fabrics. Red, scarlet, and mauve-colored fabrics are not always free from arsenic. He held that the agitation of skirts in dancing discharge arsenical poison, which probably causes some of the pallor and languor almost always wholly attributed to ill-ventilated and crowded rooms and bad champagne.

COLORING BORAX VARNISHES.—It is well known that an aqueous solution of borax is able to dissolve shellac, forming a kind of varnish, to which any desired color can be imparted by mixing with pigments. Major Dr. Kahl of Dresden has communicated to the Dresden branch of the Saxon Society of Engineers the results of a large series of experiments made with these varnishes. He reports that they are very cheap and dry very quickly, but they scale off from wood too easily. When this varnish is colored black with india ink and applied to paper, it possesses a fine gloss, but other colors, especially carmine, when mixed with this solution acquire an impure shade, and many pigments cement together in this solution, forming a hard and totally useless mass. The black shoe polish sold for ladies' boots is often made by adding some black pigment to this shellac solution. For bronze boots, rosanilin may be dissolved in any alcohol varnish.