from the county of Hastings. Some good specimens have been seen, that came from British Columbia.

ANTIMONY

According to Abel and Bloxam, a fine blue pigment, that can scarcely be distinguished from ultramarine and is said to be very effective in colouring artificial flowers, is made by dissolving metallic antimony in aqua regia and precipitating with ferro-cyanide of potassa.

If stibnite be dissolved in aqua regia and precipitated with ferro-cyanide of potassa, a light blue precipitate consisting of ferro-cyanide of antimony mixed with oxide of antimony is thrown down. When ground with oil it has little body, but as a water colour it is exceedingly bright after drying.

COLOURING OF CEMENTS AND MORTARS

In view of the recently reported statement that cement, coloured with oxide of iron, causes disintegration—a statement that my experiments so far have neither disproved nor substantiated—the time is opportune to offer some suggestions regarding the colouring of cements and mortars.

Before condemning the oxide, it is necessary to be absolutely certain of its purity. It is a well known fact that much of this pigment is prepared from by-products that often contain sulphuric acid and other impurities. Before it can be definitely stated that oxide of iron, in its pure state, is injurious as a colouring matter for cements and mortars, it is necessary to become acquainted with its previous uses and in all cases where the oxide has had deleterious effects on the paint, the colouring matter should be immediately analyzed.

Many of our ochres, in their natural state, are scarcely ready for immediate use, though some have been met with, which, when ground in oil, retained their durability for many years. To ensure this durability, it is desirable to drive off the moisture in the ochres by roasting, a process that not only expels the moisture and destroys the organic matter, but carries oxidation to its limit. Probably pigments prepared in this manner will be found more efficient as colouring matter for cements and mortars.