

more durable than the old slate, and at the same time hardly more expensive, the advantages could not be overrated. The most important feature, however, seems to be that the writing appears on the new material in black on white, and furthermore that the color is conducive to cleanliness, as it is easier for the teacher as well as for the pupils to see whether the white surface is clean, than is the case with a black one.

CHINESE PAPER MAKING.

THE German Journal, *Export*, remarks respecting the manufacture of paper in China, that it is surprising to see how backward, the Chinese are in this branch of industry. Although they probably knew the article long before the Western nations did, their efforts have remained limited to the utilization of only one source, and this one is about the least practical of all. It may in reality be said that all Chinese paper is made from the shoots of the bamboo canes, excepting only a few instances, in which it is made of bark. The paper mills themselves are of the most primitive construction. A water-wheel, set in motion by a small mountain rivulet, raises alternately a row of wooden beaters, which drop into a rough stone trough. This trough is filled with young bamboo twigs, which are gradually reduced to a coarse pulp. This is passed through a quantity of sieves, and is then exposed to the sun, in order to become dry. As soon as this mass is dry, the article is ready for commerce. It is, of course, natural that this paper possesses little strength, and as it is not sized, it cannot be used for writing with pen and ink. There are various qualities of paper in China, but even the best of them cannot stand a comparison with the most ordinary European paper. The idea that so-called rice paper, which is principally exported from Canton, is made from rice, is utterly erroneous.

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