The Printer's Miscellany.

VOL. I. SAINT JOHN, N. B., DECEMBER, 1876. No. 6.

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PRACTICAL PARAGRAPHS.

[Selected from our Scrap Book.]

TO BRIGHTEN COLORED INKS.—You can brighten colored inks by adding a small quantity of the white of fresh eggs when working, which will also assist in drying the ink hard.

GREASING ROLLER MOULDS.—Lard oil, with the addition of a little lampblack, is considered the best for greasing roller moulds. It is almost indispensable in oiling new brass moulds.

WOOD TYPE.—The following scale shows the number of letters for each font, from three A to five A:—

	Caps.	Cp. & lc.	Cp. lc. & figs.	Lc.	Figs.	Doz.
3 A font,	74,	138,	164,	64,	26,	13¾
4 A "	106,	196,	222,	90,	26,	18½
5 A "	120,	224,	250,	104,	26,	20¾

DRYERS.—Various preparations are used to insure the quick and perfect drying of ink on printed forms. One of the most reliable for fine grades of ink is the Japan dryer, mixed in small quantities with the ink.

Good turpentine, with a small quantity of balsam copaiba, is said to be an excellent mixture for the coarser grades of black and colored inks, and to act as a dryer, but the odor is objectionable to some.

The following preparation is said to be useful as a dryer, as well as to impart a brilliancy to inks: demar varnish, one ounce; balsam fir, one-half ounce; oil bergamont, twenty-five drops; balsam copaiba, thirty-five drops; creosote, ten drops; copal varnish, fifteen drops. Use in small quantities.

PASTE.—The decomposition of paste may be prevented by adding to it a small quantity of carboli. acid. It will not then become offensive, as it often does when kept for several days, or when successive layers of paper are put on with paste. In the same way, the disagreeable smell which glue often has, may be prevented. If a few drops of the solution be added to writing ink or mucilage, they will not mould.

TO THIN INK.—A printer of large practical experience says that he thins his ink with spirits of turpentine and works it with demar varnish previously thinned with raw (not boiled) linseed oil. The use of turpentine offsets, in the drying properties of the ink, the use of raw linseed. He has had most trouble with the red and green inks, both of which have been treated successfully in the manner described.

THE WEIGHT OF FONTS.—Printers often ask how they can estimate the quantity of type necessary for a paper of such and such dimensions. The following will be found a correct and simple plan: A page of type 4 x 6 inches weighs on the average 7½ pounds. Let the party interested take that for a starting point, and he will readily find the weight of his paper when set up and ready for imposition. Then let him add 40 per cent, to the weight he arrives at, to cover inequalities of "sorts" and the letter necessarily lying in case, and he has it near enough for all practical purposes.

LETTERS VS. SPACES.—Mr. Alex. Mackie says that in the process of very long experiments on the size and weight of individual types, many of which differ for no reason in the world, he found that one line of type weighed exactly the weight of its fellow lines, irrespective of the number of spaces which either line might contain. He discovered the reason, and has amused many a printer by putting a line of en quads into one scale, and a line of lower case matter into the other scale, and showing that there was not over a hair space difference in the weight. The fact is, he says, "the type founders use a heavier metal for spaces, and no one has ever tried the weighing process to check them in what smacks of sharp practice."