

Miscellaneous.

British Art Schools.

A published government directory gives a list of ninety well established and sustained schools of art in the United Kingdom, which in the year 1865 taught no less than 16,621 pupils. The first of these schools was established in 1842, and already there is not a commercial or manufacturing town in the British Isles that is not thus provided. Parliament annually appropriates a large sum of money to this system of schools, with a view to foster British manufactures by giving them the advantage so long possessed by the French, of beauty, finish and taste in design. The whole is a regularly organized department of science and art, of which the Duke of Buckingham is President, with a large staff of secretaries and clerks, and two divisions of professional inspectors, examiners and organizers, to aid in organizing schools, to supervise them while in operation, to test their efficiency, and to judge when they are entitled to aid from the fund in charge of the department. A project is set on foot to establish an American University of Art.

Disinfecting Soap, Powder, and Solution.

A recent number of the *Grocer* thus notices some new carbolic preparations, which are likely to come into very extensive use. We can strongly recommend the powder, from actual experience of its prompt disinfecting properties:—

We have before us samples of some preparations by Messrs. McDougall Brothers which belongs to an almost new branch of trade, and one of such importance that every grocer should assist in extending it. The valuable disinfecting properties of carbolic acid are now widely known, and the firm under notice have very ingeniously adapted this substance to various uses beyond the common one of throwing it in its crude state in places whose effluvia are likely to prove dangerous to health and life. Messrs. McDougall are now making a carbolic disinfecting soap, both for toilet purposes and common domestic use. Unlike some disinfecting soaps which have been sent to this office, this is not wanting in any of the good properties of ordinary soap—that is, the general quality of the material has not been sacrificed by the amalgamation. If a knowledge of its excellent properties only spreads as rapidly as we, in the interest of humanity, desire it should do, there is not a shop-keeper in the kingdom who would not ask each of his customers to take home and continue to use some of this soap while the weather keeps us in dread of another visitation of cholera. While useful as a disinfectant, it can be applied to all purposes for which ordinary soap is used, and many more besides, such as the destruction of domestic insects, and for washing soap. In support of the very favourable opinion we have expressed, we have the fact that in the London Hospital, Guy's Hospital, and several of the large London work-houses, this soap is in constant use. We are told that the Government has displaced other disinfectants, which were poisonous, in order to adopt

Messrs. McDougall's in the navy, emigration, and transport services.

Messrs. McDougall Brothers also prepare a disinfecting powder, which is put up in bottles, and may be used in a variety of ways. Both this and the soap are guaranteed free from any poisonous or otherwise injurious ingredient. An antiseptic and disinfecting fluid is also prepared, which is intended for sprinkling over floors, as a wash for sores and wounds, and by which meat and fish may be preserved from taint by washing with water to which some of this fluid has been added.

Another composition is a sheep and lamb dipping composition—an article in which many country grocers do a large trade. Carbolic acid is also an ingredient in this, and thus the use of arsenic and mercury—two dangerous poisons—is avoided. It is soluble in water, and easy of application, can be used without danger on sheep or lambs of any age, and it will not injure the skin or clothes of the person applying it. It possesses remarkable healing and antiseptic properties, rapidly cures shear wounds and sores, and prevents contagion from skin diseases; effectually destroys ticks and other vermin, and is considered the best cure for scab and the ravages of the maggot fly. In connexion with this preparation and those above mentioned the manufacturers have published a pamphlet, which, though ostensibly for advertising purposes, contains some useful information.

Catching Cold,

Says Dr. Thomas Inman, is a common phrase for an attack of catarrh, but it is a very incorrect one. One year I suffered so very severely from a series of "colds" that my attention was drawn especially to them. I was then Lecturer on Medicine, and nearly every night from five o'clock to six during the winter months, had to turn out from a warm room to go through all weathers, lecture for an hour in a theatre heated by a stove and lighted by gas, and then return again to my snuggerly at home. When I felt a fresh cold beginning, I tried in vain to account for it, until I accidentally saw in Copland's dictionary that the most fertile cause of a cold was coming from a moist, cold air to a hot and dry room. This at once explained to me the reason of my frequent suffering, for I had invariably gone into my hot room straight from the cold. I of course soon changed my habit: I dawdled in the hall, while taking off my great coat, perambulated the rooms which had no fire in, went up and down stairs and the like, ere I went into my study, whose temperature was also reduced. Since then, I agree with a friend who says, "that a cold comes from catching hot;" and I am disposed to think that there is a strong analogy between a chilblain on a child's toes and a cold in a person's nose, throat, and lungs.—*Medical Mirror*.

Interesting Chemical Experiments.

(1.) By exposing a fragment of recently calcined wood charcoal under a jar filled with hydro-sulphuric acid gas for a few minutes, so that it may become saturated with the gas, and then covering it with a jar of oxygen, the latter gas will act on the former with such energy that the latter will burst into vivid combustion. The jar must not be