

Useful Receipts.

Dressing Sheep-skins for Mats, Robes, Mittens, &c,

Make a strong suds, using hot water; when it is cold wash the skins in it to get the dirt out of the wool; then wash the soap out with clean cold water. For two skins dissolve alum and salt, of each $\frac{1}{2}$ lb., with a little hot water, which put into a tub of cold water sufficient to cover the skins, soaking 12 hours, then hang over a pole to drain, when well drained, spread or stretch carefully on a board to dry, tacking them down if necessary. When yet a little damp, have one oz. each of salpêtre and alum, pulverised, and sprinkle over the flesh-side of the skin, rubbing in well; then lay the flesh-side together and hang in the shade for two or three days, turning the underskin uppermost every day, until perfectly dry; then scrape the flesh-side with a blunt knife, to remove any remaining scraps of flesh, trim off projecting points, and rub with pumice and rotten stone, and with the hand. Lamb-skins, thus prepared, will make beautiful and warm mittens for ladies and gentlemen.

Dressing Fur and other Skins.

FIRST.—Remove the legs and other useless parts, and soak the skin soft; then remove the fleshy substances and soak in warm water for an hour; then:

Take for each skin, borax, salpêtre, and glauber-salts, of each $\frac{1}{2}$ oz., and dissolve or wet with soft water sufficient to allow it to be spread on the flesh side of the skin. Put it on with a brush, thickest in the centre or thickest part of the skin, and double the skin together, flesh side in, keeping it in a cool place for twenty-four hours, not allowing it to freeze.

SECOND.—Wash the skin clean, and then:

Take sal-soda, 1 oz.; borax, $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.; refined soap 2 oz. (white hard soap); melt them slowly together, being careful not to allow them to boil, and apply the mixture to the flesh side as at first—roll up again and keep in a warm place for twenty-four hours.

THIRD.—Wash the skin clean, as above, and have saleratus two ounces, dissolved in hot rain water sufficient to well saturate the skin; thus:

Take alum 4 ozs.; salt 8 ozs.; and dissolve also in hot water, when sufficiently cool to allow the handling of it without scalding, put in the skin for twelve hours; then ring out the water and hang up, for twelve hours more to dry. Repeat this last soaking and drying from two to four times, according to the desired softness of the skin when finished.

LASTLY.—Finish by pulling, working, etc., and finally rubbing with a piece of pumice-stone and fine sand paper.

This works admirably on sheep-skins, as well as on fur-skins, dog, cat, or wolf-skins, making a durable leather well adapted to washing.—*A. W. Chase.*

Water-proof Packing Paper

The following is a German recipe:—Dissolve 680·4 grammes (about 1·82 lbs.) of white soap in a quart of water. In another quart of water dissolve 1·82 oz. of gum-arabic, and 5·5 ozs. glue. Mix the two solutions, warm them, and soak the paper in the liquid. Pass it between rollers, or simply hang it up to drip, and then only at a gentle temperature.

To Mend Broken Glass.

A much better process for mending broken glass, china and earthenware with shellac than heating them, is to dissolve it in alcohol to about the consistency of glue or molasses and with a thin splinter of wood or pencil brush touch the edges of the broken ware. In a short time it sets without any heating, which is often an inconvenient process. It will stand every contingency but a heat equal to boiling water.

Another Gunpowder.

Nitrate of potash, 10 parts; picric acid, 10: bi-chromate of potash, 8·5—intimately mixed—give, according to Dr. Borlinetto, professor of chemistry in the University of Padua, an excellent gunpowder of the best sporting quality.

Black Varnish for Iron.

Pulverized gum asphaltum 2 lbs.; gum benzoin $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.; spirits of turpentine 1 gal.; to make quick keep in a warm place and shake often; shade to suit with finely ground ivory black.

Apply with a brush. Suited for either outside or inside iron-work. Or:

(2.) Asphaltum 8 lbs.; melt it in an iron kettle, slowly adding boiled linseed-oil 5 gals., litharge 1 lb.; and sulphate of zinc $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.: continuing to boil for three hours; then add dark gum amber $1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs., and continue to boil 2 hours longer. When cool reduce to a proper consistence with spirits of turpentine, and apply with a brush.

Application for Cuts, Wounds, etc.

It is not generally known that the leaves of a geranium are an excellent application for cuts, where the skin is rubbed off, and other wounds of that kind. One or two leaves must be bruised and applied to the part, and the wound will be cicatrized in a short time.

Burnishing Powder.

A burnishing powder in use in Belgium is composed of $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of fine chalk, 3 ounces of pipe clay, 2 ounces of white lead, $\frac{1}{4}$ of an ounce of carbonate of magnesia, and as much of jeweler's rouge.

To Write upon Iron, Steel, Gold, etc.

Muriatic acid 1 oz.; nitric acid $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.; mix. Cover the place you wish to mark, or write upon, with melted bees-wax; when cold, write the name plain with some pointed tool, cleaning all the wax out of the letter; then apply the mixed acids with a feather, filling each letter. Let it remain from one to ten minutes, according to the depth of letter required; then pour in some water to dilute the