



VIENNA BRONZE WORK.

Fine Arts.

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Great exertions were made by the Austrian manufacturers, not only to make a fine display at Vienna, but also to carry off at Amsterdam the special prizes offered by the Dutch authorities for the best designed articles admitted to the international competition.

One of the finest examples of M. Hollenbach's work, a flower vase in gilt bronze, is shown in the accompanying engraving.

PLASTER OF PARIS.

Plaster of Paris may be made to set very quick by mixing it in warm water to which a little sulphate of potash has been added. Plaster of Paris casts, soaked in melted paraffine, may be readily cut or turned in a lathe. They may be rendered very hard and tough by soaking them in warm glue size until thoroughly saturated, and allowing them to dry.

Plaster of Paris mixed with equal parts of powdered pumice-stone makes a fine mould for casting fusible metals; the same mixture is useful for incasing articles to be soldered or brazed.

Casts of plaster of Paris may be made to imitate fine bronzes by giving them two or three coats of shellac varnish, and when dry applying a coat of mastic varnish, and dusting on fine bronze powder when the mastic varnish becomes sticky.

The best method of mixing plaster of Paris is to sprinkle it into the water, using rather more water than is required for the batter; when the plaster settles pour off the surplus water and stir carefully. Air bubbles are avoided in this way.

HOW TO CLEAN ENGRAVINGS.—Soak the print in cold water till all creases are out and it lies quite smooth; then put into a dish containing a solution of chloride of lime with twice its quantity of clear cold water. When the stains have disappeared, put the engraving into plain water, and afterwards dry with blotting paper. For the solution referred to put half a pound of chloride of lime into a vessel with one pint of water; let it stand, stirring it now and again, for 24 hours, and then strain it through fine muslin till quite clear, when the liquid is to be added to one quart of water. The prints should not be left in the solution longer than is necessary to remove the stains, and the more thoroughly they are washed in cold water afterwards the better for them, for it is liable to rot and destroy it. The wet print requires care in handling.