Furniture.

EBONIZING FURNITURE.

We have received within the last few weeks a number of inquiries for *The American Cabinet-Maker*, in which was published an article on ebonizing furniture. Our issue of that date has been exhausted and we are, therefore, unable to comply with the wishes of our correspondents; but for the benefit of those who were thus disappointed we republish herewith a copy of the article.

Use the following stain: Boil ½ lb. chip logwood in two quarts of water, add 1 oz. of pearlash and apply it hot to the work with a brush. Then take ½ lb. of logwood, boil it as before in 2 quarts of water, and add ½ oz. of verdigris and ½ oz. of copperas; strain it off, put in ½ lb. of rusty steel filings; with this go over the work a second time. Stain the work with this stain, adding powdered nutgall to the logwood and copperas solution, dry, rub down well, oil, then use French polish made tolerably dark with indigo, or finely-powdered stone blue.

2. Hold an ordinary slate over gas, lamp or candle, until it is well smoked at the bottom, scrape a sufficient quantity into French polish, and well mix; then polish the article in the ordinary way. If there are any lumps gently rub them down and apply another coat.

3. Prepare a decoction of logwood by adding a small handful of chips to a pint of rain water. Allow this to simmer until reduced one fourth, and while the liquor is hot dress the work to be ebonized two or three times. To the remainder of the liquor add two bruised nut-galls, a few very rusty nails, bits of iron-hooping, or a piece of sulphate of iron the size of a walnut, and as much more rain water as will make about three-quarters of a pint of liquor. Apply this, which will be a black stain, hot as before, giving two coats, and when thoroughly dry, polish with ordinary French polish, to which sufficient powdered thumb-blue has been added to perceptibly color the polish. Use a glazed pipkin in which to prepare the stain. Take care that no oil or grease comes in contact with the brushes used or the surface of the wood until ready for polishing. Let each coat of stain dry before the next is added, and rub down with well-used, fine sandpaper. Sycamore, chestnut and plane tree are the best woods for ebonizing in the above manner.

4. Infuse gall-nuts in vinegar in which rusty nails have been soaked, rub the wood with the infusion, dry, polish, burnish.

5. Stain in the first place with a hot saturated solution of logwood, containing a little alum.

METEORIC IRON IN SNOW.—Observations of snow collected on mountain tops, and within the Arctic circle, far beyond the influence of factories and smoke, confirm the supposition that minute particles of iron float in the atmosphere, and in time fall to the earth. By some men of science these floating particles of iron are believed to bear some relation to the phenomena of the aurora. Gronemann, of Gottingen, for instance, holds that streams of the particles revolve around the sun, and that, when passing the earth, they are attracted to the poles, thence stretching forth as long filaments into space; but, as they travel with planetary velocity, they become ignited in the earth's atmosphere, and in this way produce the well-known luminous appearance characterizing auroral phenomena. Prof. Nordenskjold, who examined snow in the far north, beyond Spitzbergen, says that he found in it exceedingly minute particles of metallic iron, phosphorus and cobalt.

DRINKING BLOOD.—It is said that between 200 and 300 men and women of St. Louis drink daily from a half to a pint of blood piping hot from the veins of slaughtered cattle. More blood-drinking by consumptives and aged persons is done in September and October than during the remainder of the year. The blood of young steers is the best, and should be caught as it comes from the animal, and should be drunk while the foam is still on and the steam rising. Consumptives are advised, in addition to drinking the blood to sit in a slaughter-house for a couple of hours each day at killing time to inhale the "steam" of the running blood.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Zeitg. f. Blechindustrie* states that alloys of seven to eight parts of lead and one part of zinc protect sheet iron better against rusting than pure tin or lead, and that the plate thus covered is more suitable for certain purposes than ordinary tin-plate. He adds that the addition of a little antimony increases its resistance to oxidizing influences.

Painter's Work.

SUPERIOR PASTE.—To make paste of a superior quality, that will not spoil when kept in a cool place for several months, it is necessary to add dissolved alum as a preservative. When a few quarts are required, dissolve a dessert-spoonful of alum in two quarts of tepid water. Put the water in a tin pail that will hold six or eight quarts, as the flour of which the paste is made will greatly expand while it is boiling. As soon as the tepid water has cooled, stir in good rye or wheat flour until the liquid has the consistency of cream. See that every lump of flour is crushed before placing the vessel over the fire. To prevent scorching the paste, place it over a dish-kettle or wash-boiler partly filled with water, and set the tin pail containing the material for the paste in the water, permitting the bottom to rest on a few large nails or pebbles, to prevent excessive heat. Now add a teaspoonful of powdered resin, and let it cook until the paste has become as thick as stiff gruel, when it will be ready for use. Keep it in a tight jar, and it will last for a long time. If too thick, add cold water, and stir it thoroughly. Such paste will hold almost as well as glue.

IMITATION STAINED GLASS—A NEW IDEA.—A few years ago stained glass windows were rare in this country, even in churches, except among the ambitious and costly of those of two denominations. Now ornamental windows are comparatively plenty, not only in churches, but in other public and private buildings, and would be more common in ordinary dwellings were the cost within the scope of ordinary purses. The growing taste for this sort of color decoration cannot fail to be materially advanced by the cheap and very successful imitation of stained glass effects now coming into use. Thin sheets of silk paper are printed with brilliant oil colors, in varied artistic patterns; and when pasted upon common glass windows they produce all the brilliant effects of costly colored glass. The color sheets can be applied without skilled labor, and show a great advance in decorative effects over ordinary curtain shades or blinds. The invention has been patented, and we predict for the product a large demand.

BROWN TINT FOR IRON AND STEEL.—Dissolve, in four parts of water, two parts of crystallized chloride of iron, two parts of chloride of antimony, and one part of gallic acid, and apply the solution with a sponge or cloth to the article, and dry it in the air. Repeat this any number of times, according to the depth of color which it is desired to produce. Wash with water and dry, and finally rub the articles over with boiled linseed oil. The metal thus receives a brown tint, and resists moisture. The chloride of antimony should be as little acid as possible.

TO CLEAN WALL PAPER.—Soiled wall paper may be made to look almost as well as new, in most cases, by the following expedient: Take about two quarts of wheat bran, tie it up in coarse flannel and rub it over the paper. It will clean the whole paper of almost all descriptions of dirt and spots better than any other means that can be used. Some use bread, but dry bran is better.

A WATER-PROOF CEMEMT is prepared by a German chemist as follows: Dissolve 5 to 10 parts pure dry gelatine in 100 parts water; then add 10 p.c. of a concentrated solution of bichromate of potash. Articles united with this glue are exposed to the light of the sun, when the bichromate becoming reduced, the gelatine film attains great strength and flexibility. Glass ornaments and utensils, when broken, are said to be readily mended by this cement.

DETECTION OF STARCH IN MILK.—The adulteration of milk by starch can be readily detected by the following method: Add a few drops acetic acid to a small quantity of the suspected milk; boil the milk, and after it has cooled filter the whey. If there is any starch in the milk, a single drop of iodine solution will give a blue tint to the whey. This process is so delicate that it will show the presence of a milligram of starch in a cubic centimeter of whey (1 grain of starch in 2-16 fluid ounces of whey).

CAUSE OF SNEEZING.—Sneezing is occasioned by a clogging up of the capillaries in the nasal membrane, and a partial obstruction of the nasal passages; in which case a sense of irritation is produced which results in sneezing. This is a sort of crisis which tends to restore the functions of the excretory vessels by relieving them of the congestion.