

OUR BLUENOSE CLUB.

"Can you tell me a good varnish for paper that will not stain it?" asked the doctor, addressing the chemist.

"You can prepare a very good one as follows. I clipped it from the Boston Journal of Commerce: Clear damar-resin is covered in a flask with four and a half to six times its weight of acetone, and allowed to stand for fourteen days at a moderate temperature, after which the clear solution is poured off. Three parts of this solution are mixed with four parts of thick collodion, and the mixture allowed to become clear by standing. It is applied by a soft hair brush in vertical strokes. At first the waxing looks like a thin white film, but on completely drying it becomes transparent and shining. It should be laid on two or three times. It retains its elasticity and remains glossy in every kind of weather."

"Now Test-tube, give me a receipt for silver soap!" said Rod.

"Oh certainly. Here are a few, I saw them in the same paper: Mix $\frac{1}{2}$ pound of jeweler's rouge with $\frac{1}{2}$ pound of prepared chalk; or, $\frac{1}{2}$ pound levigated putty powder, $\frac{1}{2}$ pound burnt hartshorn, 1 pound prepared chalk, and 1 ounce rose pink; or, $\frac{1}{2}$ pound fine chalk, 3 ounces pipe clay, 2 ounces white lead, $\frac{1}{2}$ ounces magnesia (carbonate), and the same quantity of jeweler's rouge."

"That receipt you gave me the other day for cleaning marble is all right for taking out grease; can you tell me what will take out stains of tobacco juice?" asked the superintendent of Test tube.

"Try some of the following receipts. I found them in the Boston Journal of Commerce after we were talk about it the other night. Brush the dust off with a piece of chamois, then apply with a brush a good coat of gum arabic, about the consistency of thick mucilage; expose it to the sun or wind to dry. In a short time it will peel off. If all the gum should not peel off, wash it with clean water and a clean cloth. If the first application does not have the desired effect it should be tried again. Another method is to rub the marble with the following solution: one quarter of a pound of soft soap, one quarter of a pound of whiting, and one ounce of soda, and a piece of stone blue the size of a walnut; rub it over the marble with a piece of flannel, and leave it on for twenty-four hours, then wash off with clean water, and polish the marble with a piece of flannel or an old piece of felt; or take two parts of common soda, one part of pumice stone, and one part of finely powdered chalk, sift it through a fine sieve and mix it with water, then rub it well over the marble; and afterwards wash the marble over with soap and water. To take stains out of white marble, take one ounce of oxgall, one gill of lye, one and a half tablespoonfuls of turpentine; mix and make into a paste with pipe clay; put on over the stain and let it remain for several days. To remove oil stains, apply common clay saturated with benzine. If the grease has remained in long, the polish will be injured, but the stains will be removed. Ironmould or ink spots may be taken out in the following manner: Take half an ounce of butter of antimony, and one ounce of oxalic acid, and dissolve in one pint of rain water; add enough flour to bring the mixture to a proper consistency. Lay it evenly on the stained part with a brush, and after it has remained for a few days wash it off, and repeat the process if the stain be not wholly removed."

"Can you tell me how to etch steel?" asked the superintendent, addressing Mr. Rod.

"E. Kick of Paris, recommends the following: Hydrochloric acid one pint, water one pint, concentrated solution of antimonious chloride, one drop. The last ingredient is added to prevent rusting of the etched parts. Soft and fine grained metal is more easily acted on than any other sort."

"What will clean a gummed up emery wheel?" asked Test-tube.

"Wet it with a sponge, scrape with a piece of hoop iron or a carding cloth. If the wheel has been used in greasy material rub it with kerosene," said Rod.

"How can I restore old furniture?" asked the doctor.

"An old cabinet maker says that the best preparation for cleaning picture frames, restoring furniture, especially that somewhat scratched, is a mixture of three parts linseed oil, and one part spirits of turpentine. It not only covers the disfigured surface, but restores wood to its original color, and leaves a lustre on the surface. Put on with a woollen cloth, and when dry rub with a woollen cloth," answered Test-tube.

"Test-tube, can you tell me how to detect cotton in linen tissues and woollen in silks?" asked the doctor.

"To detect cotton in linen tissue dip the fabric in olive oil. Dry it between two pieces of unsized paper. If there should be cotton mixed with linen the fabric will appear striped, cotton threads representing the darker lines when looked at towards the light, and showing lighter lines against a dark background. To detect woollen in silk put the tissue in a solution of caustic potash in which oxide of lead has been previously dissolved. Woollen goods turn black while the silk does not."

"Now tell me how to dye wood black?"

"First sponge the wood with a solution of chlorhydrate of aniline in water, to which add a small quantity of chloride. Allow it to dry, and go over it with a solution of potassium bichromate. Repeat the process twice or thrice, and the wood will take a fine black colour, unaffected by light or chemicals."

"How do you polish zinc?" Rod asked the superintendent.

"Take one part of muriatic acid to two parts of water, scour the zinc well with this mixture and fine sand, then dry carefully and give a thin coating of oil."

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