

nursery, bed, or dressing-room. An ornamental glass vase held a quantity at the foot of the stair-cases. Stables, cow-sheds, pig-sties, all had their dose, and the result was glorious. I thoroughly routed my enemies, and if the rats, more impudent than all the rest, did make renewed attacks upon the dairy in about twelve months, when probably from repeated cleansing all traces of the chloride had vanished, a handful of fresh again routed them, and left me master of my premises. Last year was a great one for wasps; they wouldn't face the chloride, though in the dining-room, in which we had none—as its smell, to me most refreshing and wholesome, is not approved by all persons—we had a perpetual warfare. And all this comfort for eight-pence! Only let housekeepers beware that they place not the chloride in their china pantries, or in too close proximity to bright steel wares, or the result will be that their gilded china will be reduced to plain, and their bright steel fenders to rusty iron in quick time.—*Cor. London Builder.*

BLACK VARNISH FOR IRON WORK.—The following is a method given by Mr. Weiskopf, of producing upon iron a durable black shining varnish: Take oil of turpentine, add to it, drop by drop, and while stirring, strong sulphuric acid until a syrupy precipitate is quite formed, and no more of it is produced on further addition of a drop of acid. The liquid is now repeatedly washed with water, every time refreshed after a good stirring, until the water does not exhibit any more acid reaction on being tested with blue litmus paper. The precipitate is next brought upon a cloth filter, and, after all the water has run off, the syrupy mass is fit for use. This thickish magma is painted over the iron with a brush; if it happens to be too stiff, it is previously diluted with some oil of turpentine. Immediately after the iron has been so painted, the paint is burnt in by a gentle heat, and, after cooling, the black surface is rubbed over with a piece of woollen stuff, dipped in and moistened with linseed oil. According to the author, this varnish is not a simple covering of the surface, but it is chemically combined with the metal, and does not, therefore, wear off or peel off, as other paints and varnishes do, from iron.—*Milwaukee Journal of Commerce.*

ART GLEANINGS.

A CORRESPONDENT of the Cincinnati *Gazette* advises in the building of board fence to throw up a ridge under it about a foot high, which saves one board and admits of a lower fence; and setting two posts in the same hole fifty feet apart, disconnecting the boards, so that the lineal shrinkage instead of breaking off nails shall only pull the posts open.

A MEXICAN letter speaks of a new textile discovered in the Mountains of Vera Cruz, Pueblo Morechos. It yields a thread of two varas in length, shining white, and stronger than hemp. It is said that any laborer can prepare daily 75 pounds of this new flax without any particular machinery. The plant yields an acid which may prove useful in some industries.

In answer to a question as to the most economical, healthful and convenient way of heating a house, a writer in the *N. Y. Evening Post* says: "To our agricultural mind, the royal way to heat a house is to supply each room with a roaring hickory fire on the hearth. This compasses fresh air, good

spirits, good complexion, sound sleep and sound health. Stoves are an abomination; furnaces are an invention of the Evil One.

WARREN Leland writes to the *Country Gentleman*, objecting to recommendations that corn cribs be constructed in barns. He tried the plan, and found it resulted in large wastage from rats and mice, and from damaged corn. He then tried the old fashioned corn crib, set on posts extending three feet from the ground, and with inverted tin pans on the top, and having slat floor and slat sides. Such a building is rat and mice proof, and perfectly preserves the corn.

POLISH FOR PATENT LEATHER GOODS.—Take half pound of molasses or sugar, 1 ounce of gum-arabic, and 2 pounds of ivory black; boil them well together, then let the vessel stand till quite cooled, and the contents are settled; after which, bottle off. This is an excellent reviver, and may be used as a blacking in the ordinary way, no brushes for polishing being required.

HOW TO CLEAN LAMP CHIMNEYS.—Most people, in cleaning lamp chimneys, use either a brush made of bristles twisted into a wire, or a rag on the point of scissors. Both of these are bad; for without great care, the wire or scissors will scratch the glass as a diamond does, which, under the expansive power of heat, soon breaks, as all scratched glass will. If you want a neat thing that costs nothing, and will save half your glass, tie a piece of soft sponge, the size of your chimney, to a pine stick.

LIQUID GLUE.—To 1 oz. of borax in a pint of boiling water, add 2 ozs. of shellac, and boil till the shellac is dissolved. Another—Dissolve 8 ozs. of the best glue in half a pint of water; that being done, add slowly, and keep stirring, 2½ ozs. strong aquafortis. Keep well corked ready for use. Another—A useful glue for fastening papers together only by being wetted by the tongue, is made as follows: Dissolve 1 pound of glue or gelatine in water, and half a pound of brown sugar, and boil them together. Make into cakes by pouring into shapes. It becomes solid when cold.

ANTI-RUST VARNISH, OR VARNISH FOR IRON AND STEEL RODS.—Take the following ingredients, 1, 2, 3, in a pounded condition, and digest them by a regular heat till melted, then add the turpentine very gradually, stirring all the while: 1. Resin, 120 parts. 2. Sandarac, 180 parts. 3. Gum lac, 60 parts. 4. Essence of turpentine, 120 parts. The mixture should be digested until dissolution; then add—Rectified alcohol, 180 parts. Filter through fine cloth, or thick bibulous papers, and preserve in well stoppered bottles or cases. It will be found very effective in preserving things from rust.

"If the Arts are to flourish among us," says John Ruskin in one of his Oxford lectures, "we must recover for the mass of the nation three requisites which they at present want: 1. Wholesomeness of food. We must no longer allow them to eat and drink poison instead of food; everything provided for their daily sustenance must be good and pure, as well as plentiful. 2. Wholesomeness and decency in dress. It must be such as becomes their rank—serviceable and good, and, at the same time, becoming and in good taste. 3. We must improve the lodgings. All ecclesiastical architecture is developed for civil and domestic building, and its highest achievement may be said to be a 'glorified roof.'"