and five wide ; some are even a foot long. Those which are not fit for drawing are colored for other purposes. Rice Paper absorbs water, and swells so as to present an elevation, which continues after it becomes dry, and gives to the drawing a velvety appearance and a relief which no other kind of paper produces.

Rice Paper may, with care, be written upon, as the ink does not spread. The writing is glossy, showing some metallic surfaces.

Examined chemically, it seems to be analogous to the substance which Dr. John calls medulline. Treated with nitric acid, it forms oxalic acid.

The white and pure specimens are much used for drawings ; the inferior are variously colored, and now extensively used in forming artificial flowers. In India, a pasteboard is made by cementing many leaves together, and of this hats are fabricated, which, covered with silk or other stuffs, are firm and extremely light.

Rice Paper was introduced into Europe about thirty years ago. The flowers which were first made of it sold at an exorbitant price. A single bouquet cost Princess Charlotte of Wales £70 sterling.

From the quality of this paper, it may be most successfully employed in painting butterflies, flowers, birds, plants, and animals. For this purpose, the object is first sketched on common paper, which is then to be pasted on a card. The sketch must be of a deep black. When executed in this way by the most skilful hands, the pictures of butterflies, insects, &c. have been often mistaken for the animal itself pasted on paper. Rice Paper has also been employed in lithography with the most brilliant effect.

It is desirable for the purposes of art that some aquatic plant should be found in our own climate whose pith is analogous to that of the Æschynomene. Is is not possible, also, to fabricate a paper, the tissue of which may absorb water, and furnish the relief which gives to rice paper its greatest value?