

woods are called into requisition. Rose wood is imported from Brazil and sawed into veneers.

This much on woods. Ivory, of course, is an important item in the make up of a piano. The chief supply comes from Africa, and comes to us from Zanzibar.

Africa also sends us gum copal, which enters into the manufacture of piano polishing varnishes. This varnish is a preparation of gum copal, melted at a high temperature and held in solution by adding boiled oil, reduced to the proper consistency by the introduction of spirits of turpentine.

Shellacs, also used in piano varnish, come from Calcutta.

Those felts and cloths used in different parts of the instruments are made from the finest wools. The felts were formerly of German importation wholly, but America is now able to supply the article.

Buckskin, probably from German tanneries, finds its use in covering the felt, which in turn covers the hammers. Music wire from Germany; bolts, pins hinges, screw hinges, etc., from our own land; glue, alcohol, turpentine, sweet oil, rottenstone, pumicestone and a multitude of other articles aid the piano-maker in his operations.

When it is remembered that the piano is made up of about 6,000 separate pieces and a wide variety of materials, we cannot fail to recognize the skill, the discrimination, the patience required to shape these parts into one harmonious whole.

FRANK BOURNE.

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