

Arts and Manufactures.

IMPROVED METHOD OF PRESERVING THE AROMA OF HOPS.

It is well known that the quality of Hops greatly deteriorates by the ordinary methods of keeping, so that in the course of a twelve month much of their peculiar aromatic flavour and odour which gives them their principal use in the manufacture of beer becomes in a great measure volatilised. Hops should be packed after being thoroughly dried, as tightly as possible in bales made of good thick cloth, and when not intended for immediate use, their bulk should be further reduced by additional pressure, and kept in a dry place, as much removed as possible from the currents and moisture of the atmosphere. Hops as they are usually exposed by retailers, soon lose the greater part of their "lupuline," which is found in the form of fine yellow grains or dust covering the base of the scales of the catkin, and which imparts to them much of their weight, and the greater portion of their use and quality. These aromatic properties vary much in amount according to the variety or sorts cultivated, and the character of the soil and season. The "Goldings" are considered in England to have a larger proportion of "lupuline" than most other kinds, and a rich dry limestone soil, containing a liberal percentage of phosphoric acid, produces a much finer quality than soils, however judiciously manured, that contain a large relative amount of clay or sand.

We learn that Mr. E. D. Brainard, of Albany, N. Y., has a plan of preserving the "lupuline" or resinous substances in hops unchanged, so as to retain its valuable aromatic qualities by the dryness of the surrounding air and a low temperature combined, both conditions being essential for the preservation of the aromatic principle. It is stated that in this way hops can be kept for several years, retaining almost without any appreciable diminution their original strength.

"The hops are packed in bags in the usual way, and placed in a chamber or other receptacle made tight and close, to prevent ventilation or communication with the atmosphere. The receptacle is connected with an in-house or refrigerating chamber so as to have the air surrounding the hops reduced to a low temperature, or nearly to freezing point, say, between 40° and 50° Fah. The hops having been thus stored and kept cold and dry, the resinous substance "lupuline" undergoes no material change in its nature, and the flavour and odour of the hops are not dissipated or lost by evaporation."

Few of our readers, perhaps, interested in the growth or consumption of this article, will be disposed to reduce literally the above directions to practice. The principle, however, which they in-

volve will admit of varied degrees of application, and a little trouble and forethought will often be sufficient to arrest the rapid deterioration of the quality of hops, to which they are so commonly exposed by the ordinary methods of packing and preserving.

KALSOMINING PARLOR WALLS.

It is a popular error to believe that the materials for kalsomining are very expensive, and also that few men have sufficient skill to apply the liquid even after it has been properly prepared. For this reason, people are frequently deceived into paying exorbitant prices for this kind of work.

The materials employed are good clear glue, Paris white, and water. Paris white is sold here in New York City and Brooklyn from two to three cents per pound. Itinerant kalsominers frequently charge twenty-five cents per pound, as "they use nothing but the genuine silver polish, which is scarce, and very expensive."

In case the wall of a large room, say sixteen by twenty feet square, is to be kalsomined with two coats, it will require about one fourth of a pound of light-colored glue, and five or six pounds of Paris white. Soak the glue over night in a tin vessel, containing about a quart of warm water. If the kalsomine is to be applied the next day, add a pint more of clean water to the glue, and set the tin vessel containing the glue into a kettle of boiling water over the fire, and continue to stir the glue until it is well dissolved and quite thin. If the glue-pail be placed in a kettle of boiling water, the glue will not be scorched. Then, after putting the Paris white into a large water-pail, pour on hot water, and stir it until the liquid appears like thick milk. Now mingle the glue-liquid with the whiting, stir it thoroughly, and apply it to the wall with a white-wash brush, or with a large paint-brush. It is of little consequence what kind of an instrument is employed in laying on the kalsomine, provided the liquid is spread smoothly. Expensive brushes, made expressly for kalsomining, may be obtained at brush-factories, and at some drug and hardware stores. But a good whitewash-brush, having long and thick hair, will do very well. In case the liquid is so thick that it will not flow from the brush so as to make smooth work, add a little more hot water. When applying the kalsomine, stir it frequently. Dip the brush often, and only so deep in the liquid as to take as much as the hair will retain without letting large drops fall to the floor. If too much glue be added, the kalsomine can not be laid on smoothly, and will be liable to crack. The aim should be to apply a thin layer of sizing, that can not be brushed off with a broom or dry cloth. A thin coat will not crack.—*M. nuf. clurer and Baidle*.

CHLORIDE OF LIME FOR VERMIN.—Some years ago I read, in a French scientific periodical, that chloride of lime would rid a house of all these nuisances. I treasured up the information, and some four years since I took an old country house, infested with rats, mice and flies. I stuffed every rat and mouse-hole with the chloride; I threw it on the quarry floors of the dairy and cellars; I kept saucers of it under the chests of drawers, or some other convenient piece of furniture, and in every