

PAINTS AND OILS.

A NEW PAINTING MATERIAL.—Herr Gerhard, of Dusseldorf, has made a public essay before a considerable number of painters of his invention of a new vehicle in painting. His method is to use a mixture of wax and caseine instead of oil; and it is stated that, so far as can be seen at present, the result is highly satisfactory.

AN IMPORTANT DISCOVERY is reported from California in the shape of a new paint oil, which is stated to be superior to linseed oil and much cheaper. It has the further advantage that, on surfaces which are exposed to the weather, it makes the paint wear more than twice as long as linseed oil. It is also claimed that "neither the heat and dryness of summer, nor the cold and wet of winter will cause the paint to scale off" or "chalk." It preserves its elasticity and gloss better and longer than linseed oil, and never blisters in the sun." The oleine used in the manufacture of this new paint oil is extracted from fish oil.—*Drug, Oil, and Paint Reporter*.

THE MANUFACTURE OF WHITE LEAD.—Some time since we stated that a new process for the manufacture of white lead had been discovered and patented by Professor R. W. Emerson MacIvor, and that a company had been formed to work the process. Since then the patentee and Professor Watson Smith, of University College, London, have been experimenting upon galena, or sulphide of lead, and they have reported that they can make basic carbonate of lead (white lead) from this ore as easily as from cerusite. When it is noted that sulphide of lead is plentiful in nearly every country, and can be purchased at a cheap rate, the value of this second discovery will be apparent.—*British and Colonial Druggist*.

MR. CHARLES RICHARDSON, President of the National Paint, Oil, and Varnish Association, offers the following simple test to ascertain if turpentine has been adulterated; Paint the back of a clear, clean glass with black paint, giving it two coats; after the paint is thoroughly dry drop on the surface one drop of the suspected article, and, with the light properly reflected from the surface, watch the effect as it evaporates. If pure, the drop will dry off almost like water, and no color will be reflected from the surface. If the drop contains as much as five per cent. of oil or benzine, the surface, with the light properly reflected on it, will exhibit an iridescent purple, similar to that thrown off from the surface of water on which oil has been dropped.

CARE OF VARNISH.—In a country shop, where a small quantity of varnish is used at a time, it is best to buy it in small cans—say pints and quarts. After varnish has been frequently exposed to the air, and has stood a month or two, it is apt to become fat or to receive too much oxygen, and lose too much of its turpentine to

work as the manufacturer intended, or to the satisfaction of the varnisher; and that is one of the reasons why so many varnishers fail to get uniform results from the same grade of varnish. After the can has been opened and closed a few times, the cork, which is apt to stick fast to the nozzle of the can, begins to crumble or break, leaving pieces adhering to the can, and portions of the cork often find their way into the varnish, and, to the disgust of the varnisher, turns up as specks upon the finished work. A rubber stopper is a good thing to use in a varnish can which has to be reopened from time to time as the contents are used, because it will not make specks and will stop the can nearer air-tight than cork.—*House Painting and Decorating*.

TO PROTECT THE PURITY OF LINSEED OIL.—One of the subjects carefully considered at the annual convention of the National Wholesale Druggists' Association, held at Washington, D. C., in December, was the adulteration of linseed oil and the use of substitutes for linseed oil. The Committee on Paints, Oils, and Glass called attention to the amount of adulterated linseed oil on the market, and pointed out the methods by which the jobbing trade, and even careful buyers of single barrels, are deceived and annoyed. The practice is alleged to be confined for the most part to dealers in and compounders of the products of petroleum, who pump out from fifteen to twenty gallons of linseed oil from a barrel bearing a well-known brand and replace it with an adulteration (usually some product of petroleum) and then sell the whole under the crusher's brand. The Association placed itself on record by resolutions condemning the practice as "wholly wrong, unmercantile, and in antagonism to the best interests of the trade," and asking the National Linseed Oil Company and other linseed oil crushers to consider some means of effectually removing so damaging a competition. The Committee's report also stated that in their opinion the great desideratum of a perfect substitute for linseed oil at a much less cost has not yet been realized, although the future may have such a surprise in store. The sense of the Association as expressed in a resolution was "that until some oil is offered to take the place of linseed oil, which shall have clearly established that it contains the necessary properties of self-oxidation and the other valuable properties inherent in pure linseed oil, it is inexpedient for the wholesale drug trade to assume the risk of damage and loss of reputation more or less incident to the sale of any oil for general painting purposes, other than pure linseed oil."—*The Carriage Monthly*.

READY-MIXED PAINTS.—The handling of ready-mixed paints has become most important branches of the business. There are a good many brands of ready-mixed paints on the market; but, unfortunately, a large number are almost worthless, having very little, if any, linseed oil or white lead or zinc in the composition, or any of

the standard basic colors. Good paints cost money, and when you are offered ready-mixed or other paints at phenomenally low prices you can set it down as a fact that they are dear at any price, and that they will ruin the reputation of any dealer handling them. There are a number of large concerns, who, in addition to handling immense lines of paints and oils, are also prepared to meet the large and growing demand for ready-mixed. Their ready-mixed paints are made up of standard materials, just such as you can buy unmixed from their general stock. They have skilled men engaged in the work of mixing, and their knowledge of colors enables them to produce shades and effects impossible to the painter who buys his lead and oil and colors and does his mixing at his shop. The regular painters have made a valiant fight against the ready-mixed, as did the regular dealers in regulation goods. But both have practically abandoned the fight, and the former are using the goods now which are furnished by the latter. Many of the fine shades and effects of mixed colors can only be produced by the most skilful manipulation, by experienced hands, and by repeated trituration or grinding by machinery, which accounts often for the superior brilliancy of ready-mixed colors over those produced by the painter's own mixing. Cheapness is another element of popularity of ready-mixed paints; but the greatest cause of the wonderful success of the business is its convenience. There is much more painting done than formerly in country localities; outbuildings and farm implements getting attention they would not under the old system. The farmer or mechanic can keep his buildings, gates, fences and implements painted at small cost.—*Drug, Oil and Paint Reporter*.

METHYLAL, on account of its low boiling point, 42° C., and its low volatilization is coming into use in the extraction of volatile principles, especially in the extraction of perfumes. Experiments made with violets prove its success in extracting delicate odors.—*Chemiker Ztg.*, 1890, 1474.

TO PRESERVE HYDROGEN PEROXIDE it is recommended by Kingzeit (*Jour. Chem. Ind.*) to add a small percentage of ether, which he found superior to sulphuric acid or alcohol. Pure hydrogen peroxide lost 27.4 per cent. in 98 days and 89.2 per cent. in 490 days, while after the addition of ether the percentage of loss was only 4.3 and 15.9 respectively.

HYDROGEN SULPHIDE SOLUTION is best preserved, according to Fiumi (*Chem. Zeit.*) in an amber colored bottle provided with a saucer-like rim round the neck partially filled with a mixture of equal parts of glycerin and water, a glass cup inverted over the neck dipping into the liquid and thus forming a perfect joint. Solutions, although frequently used, have thus been preserved in good condition for months. It should be said that the neck is also fitted with a ground stopper, and the saucer is provided with a spout.