

## OUR BLUENOSE CLUB.

"Can you tell me any means of restoring the colour to that leather?" inquired the doctor, holding up a small satchel a good deal the worse for wear.

"Apply some good blacking," replied Test-tube, "and after brushing, give it a slight oiling and an after-dressing of gum tragacanth. It will improve the shabbiest leather."

"How can I remove grease from marble?" asked the superintendent.

The little chemist, who was considered a perfect mine of information on all those subjects that do not belong to any particular science, spoke up. "A paste made up of whiting and benzine will remove grease from marble, and of whiting and chloride of lime spread on marble and left to dry in the sun will remove stains if they are not too deep."

"Do you know any method of rendering linseed oil paint anti-corrosive when applied to iron?" asked Mr. Rod turning to the superintendent.

"Ten per cent of burned magnesia or even of baryta or strontia mixed cold with linseed oil paint, with enough mineral oil to develop the alkaline earth, will render the paint an anti-corrosive when applied to iron. The free acid of the paint is neutralized and the iron is protected by the alkaline action of it."

"For iron to be buried in the ground, I have found the following mixture useful," said Rod. "You may know it already. Take 100 parts rosin, 25 parts of gutta percha, and 50 parts of paraffine, to which add 20 parts of magnesia and some mineral oil. By the way, did you see that a process has been patented in Great Britain, by which metal castings can be punched, bored, and tapped, as readily as wrought metal. At Melbourne a casting, at a dull, red heat, was accidentally dropped into a mixture of treacle and water with a specific gravity of 1.005, and when taken out was found to be pliable and soft."

"I saw lately," observed the doctor, "in a copy of the *Nation* a little verse that is a very good guide to the use of 'shall' and 'will.' Here it is:

In the first person, simply, *shall* foretells,  
In *will* a threat, or else a promise dwells,  
*Shall* in the second and third does threaten,  
*Will* there simply foretells a future feat.

"We were speaking some weeks ago of disinfectants," he continued. "A committee, of which M. Pasteur was one, reports that the best disinfectant for rooms where there has been contagious diseases is sulphurous gas, but bi-sulphide of carbon should be burned instead of sulphur to produce it."

"Have you seen M. P. Gabriel's process for tempering steel?" inquired the superintendent of Rod.

No. What is it?"

"Cyanide of potassium is dissolved and red-heated in an earthenware crucible, into which pieces of steel are immersed until they are red and then plunged in cold water. The polished surface is not destroyed, straight pieces are not distorted or bent, and the method is particularly serviceable with escapement springs."

"I saw the other day in the *Cincinnati Enquirer*," said the doctor, "an account of how to predict rain by observing the ordinary tree snail. It does not drink but absorbs moisture during a rain and exudes it afterward. This animal is never seen abroad except before a rain, when you will see it climbing the bark of trees and getting on the leaves. Two days before rain it will climb up the stems of plants, and if the rain is going to be a hard and long one, will get on the sheltered side of a leaf, but if a short rain, on the outside. Then there are other species that before a rain are yellow; after it, blue. Others indicate rain by holes and protuberances, which before a rain rise as large tubercles. These will begin to show themselves ten days before a rain. At the end of each tubercle is a pore which opens when the rain comes, to absorb and draw in the moisture. In other snails deep indentations, beginning at the head between the horns and ending with the jointure of the tail, appear a few days before a storm."

"There are many signs of the same kind," said Test-tube. "Every farmer knows when swallows fly low that rain is coming; sailors when the sea gulls fly towards the land, or when the stormy petrel, or mother Carey's chickens, as they are called, appear, predict foul weather."

"I have noticed," remarked Mr. Coge, "the activity displayed by ants just before a storm—hurry, scurry, rushing hither and you, as if they were behind time. Dogs grow sleepy and dull, and like to lie before a fire as rain approaches; chickens pick up pebbles, fowls roll in the dust, flies sting and bite more viciously, frogs croak more clamorously, gnats assemble under trees, and horses display restlessness."

"Can you tell me a good thing to remove paint from clothes," said Mr. Rod to the Chemist. "Yes, chloroform will remove paint from a garment when benzine or bi-sulphide of carbon fails."

"What kind of cement do you use for bolts," inquired Test-tube, addressing the superintendent.

"An ordinary cement for this purpose is wheat flour boiled in oil of turpentine; but the ends must be secured by rivets or it is not reliable. A better cement is made by soaking six ounces of the best glue in one pint of ale, then boil, add one and a half ounces of boiled linseed oil and stir well. Another prescription is to take dissolved glue in the form that cabinetmakers use, and add tannic acid till creamy and ropy. Make the leather surfaces to be united rough, apply the cement hot, let it cool and dry under pressure, and it will not need riveting. For rubber belting take pure rubber in thin slices, two ounces, dissolve in one pound bisulphide of carbon. This is a good cement, but if kept thickens very soon. In order to prevent this add a solution of pure rubber, resin, and turpentine.

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