

in this way will not do so well for shoes, but answers well for hamstrings, back bands, and various other purposes on the farm.—A., in *Southern Cultivator*.

### HOW TO WASH A CARRIAGE.

1st. Moisten the mud with a sprinkler, to make it soft, for if you begin by washing and rubbing, the grit in the mud will scratch off the varnish and paint, and in that way work damage.

2nd. After so softening the mud, wash clean with a water-filled sponge, changing the water so as to keep the grit out of the sponge.

3rd. After so washing thoroughly, sprinkle again all over with clean water, and then rub dry one way the way of the grain, with a piece of clean chamois leather, and the work will be done nicely, without a scratch.

The way to save time in doing the work is this:—Commence the sprinkling at the front of the carriage and go around to the starting place, by which time, following the same track, the mud will be soft enough to go on washing with the sponge, which should be first done on the body, on wheels afterwards. Green hands generally begin with the wheels, when the dripping of dirty water from the body requires the wheels, &c., to be washed over again.—*Minnesota Monthly*.

### USEFUL RECEIPTS.

To Septimus Piesse, the celebrated London chemist and perfumer, we are indebted for the following recipes and facts. The distinguished source from which they come is a guarantee of their reliability:

To CLEAN GILT JEWELRY.—Take half a pint of boiling water, or a little less, and put it into a clean oil flask. To this add one ounce of cyanide of potassium, shake the flask and the cyanide will dissolve. When the liquid is cold, add half a fluid ounce of liquor of ammonia, and one fluid ounce of rectified alcohol. Shake the mixture together and it will be ready for use. All kinds of gilt articles, whether Birmingham ware or "Articles de Paris," which having become discolored, may be rendered bright by brushing them with the above-mentioned fluid.

To HARDEN A POKER.—The fire poker, by constant use, becomes soft, and is generally more or less bent. This arises from its being left in the fire and becoming red hot, then being put on the fender, where it slowly cools, an operation which softens even the best steel. When a poker has thus become soft and bent, it may again be hardened by making it hot two or three times, and plunging it every time that it is hot into a pail of cold water. The rapidly cooling of steel makes it hard again.

INK ON BOOKS.—To remove ink-stains from a book, first wash the paper with warm water, using a camel's hair pencil for the purpose. By this means the surface ink is got rid of; the water must now be wetted with a solution of oxalate of potash, or, better still, oxalic acid, in proportion of one ounce to half a pint of water. The ink stains will immediately disappear. Finally, again wash the

stained place with clean water, and dry it with white blotting paper.

LAUNDRY PAPER BLUE.—This is a new and useful invention by M. Binko, which will supersede the well known blue bag of the laundry. A piece of paper blue being put into water colors it rapidly to the required rinse tint. Thus the trouble of keeping a blue-bag from one wash to another will be avoided, as well as some expense saved.

A TEST FOR COLORS.—M. Nickles has found that fluoride of potassium will discharge a Prussian blue color, and not affect the indigo and aniline colors. This information will interest calico printers and dyers. A fact of more general interest is, that fluoride of potassium will remove ink stains from cloth.

### GOOD GLUE AND MUCILAGE.

The best quality of mucilage in the market is made by dissolving clear glue in equal volumes of water and strong vinegar, and adding one fourth of an equal volume of alcohol, and a small quantity of a solution of alum in water.

The action of the vinegar is due to the acetic acid which it contains. This prevents the glue from gelatinizing by cooling; but the same result may be accomplished by adding a similar quantity of nitric acid. Some of the preparations offered for sale are merely boiled starch or flour, mixed with nitric acid to prevent them from gelatinizing. Gum tragacanth possesses very great adhesive properties, and is sometimes used in hair-dressing, for the purpose of stiffening the hair. A preparation for the hair, known as Bandoline, is nothing but a solution of gum tragacanth. Gum-arabic dissolved in water will not gelatinize from the influence of cold alone; but in order to prevent its decomposition or fermentation, acetic acid and alcohol are added. The high price of this gum prevents its being extensively used in the preparation of mucilage; in fact this article seldom contains any gum arabic whatever. All these preparations, including the renowned Spaulding's composition, are far inferior in their sticking properties to the ordinary solution of glue in hot water, universally used by cabinet-makers, and carpenters.

This preparation is not quite so convenient for general use, as it must be applied hot, and the articles glued must be tied or pressed together for some time; but the satisfaction of doing a better job ought to repay the extra trouble.—*Manufacturer and Builder*.

EVERY MAN HIS OWN MEASURE MAKER.—The following rules, which every one who can saw and nail boards can make his own measures, we find in an Eastern paper:—

A barrel contains 10,752 cubic inches. A box 24 inches long by 16 inches wide, and 28 inches deep—that is on the inside—will hold just a barrel.

A half-barrel.—Make a box for this 24 inches by 16, and 14 inches deep. This will contain 5,376 cubic inches, or just half a barrel.

A bushel.—This has 2150 4-10 cubic inches. A bushel box will be 16 inches by 16 8-10 inches square, and 8 inches deep.