

**Messrs. T. B. Peterson & Brothers** have just made a large reduction in the retail price of their popular duodecimo publications, including the books written by Mrs. Emma D. E. N. Southworth, Mrs. Ann S. Stephens, Mrs. Caroline Lee Hentz, Mrs. Catharine A. Warfield, Miss Eliza A. Dupuy, Alexander Dumas, Mrs. Hale and others.

### Art Notes.

AMONG the forthcoming Christmas cards are exquisite winter scenes from the delicate brush of W. H. Gibson, whose successful interpretation of the finest touches of nature is familiar to art lovers. Besides these, Messrs. Prang have enlisted the services of A. F. Bellows and J. F. Murphy, who have produced some lovely groupings of flowers, berries, ferns, and grasses for panel studies. The advance in chromo-lithography is well illustrated by a recent exhibit of Messrs. Prang & Company, at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, of original water-color paintings and their copies in chromo-lithography side by side. A few years ago the prejudice against reproductive art would not have allowed such an exhibition under such auspices; now it is conceded that the process has reached such perfection as to be most useful in putting faithful copies of the best efforts of the painter within the reach of all who possess taste and intelligence enough to appreciate them.

### Scientific.

**Healthful Clothing.**—The *Lancet* says that if children would wear woolen next the skin, and wear longer clothing, suspending it from the shoulders, we would hear more of boisterous health and less of back-aches and pains.

**Adamascobite.**—Adamascobite is the local name of a mineral which is said to be found in only one place in the world, and that is the State of Missouri. The stone is very peculiar in its structure and properties. Its cutting power is diamond-like, cutting away steel very rapidly, and still retaining an exceedingly fine edge.

**Carrier Ravens.**—Successful experiments have lately been made at Coblenz in the training of ravens as carrier birds in place of pigeons. The latter are more subject to the attack of birds of prey than ravens. The trained ravens were made to fly a distance of forty miles, and their performances gave much satisfaction.

**Sulphur in Cellars.**—It is a good plan to burn sulphur in cellars where milk is kept, especially if they are damp. The sulphurous acid evolved destroys the mildew, which, if not checked, will injure the flavor of cream and butter. In many damp cellars the mildew wastes the cream so that the butter product is seriously decreased, besides the injury to quality.

**Cement for Glass and Metal.**—Every one who uses brass letters on glass windows, and knows how often they tumble off from unequal expansion, or from the too energetic efforts of window-cleaners, will be glad to have the following recipe: Litharge, 2 parts; white lead, 1 part; boiled linseed oil, 3 parts; gum copal, 1 part. Mixed just before using, this is said to form a quick-drying and secure cement.

**An Injurious Custom.**—It is the custom of many housekeepers to use the water in which potatoes are boiled for making bread, generally mashing some of the potato also and putting into the flour. The very poisonous alkaloid solanine is contained in the potato, and is extracted by treating the potato with acidulated water. Hence the use of water in which potatoes have been cooked is not advisable.

**Gilding Leather.**—It is first moistened with a sponge, then stretched and tacked on a board. When dry it receives a coat of thick isinglass solution, then one of white of egg that has been beaten and allowed to settle. Upon this is laid lightly with a brush sheets of silver foil, which are then pressed down with a wad of cotton wool. When this is dry it is painted over with yellow leather varnish, which gives it a beautiful golden appearance.

**Good Mucilage for Labels.**—Macerate 5 parts of good glue in 18 to 20 parts of water for a day, and to the liquid add 9 parts of rock candy and 3 parts of gum arabic. The mixture can be brushed upon paper while inkewarm; it keeps well, does not stick together; and when moistened adheres firmly to bottles. For the labels of soda or seltzer water bottles it is well to prepare a paste of good rye flour and glue, to which linseed oil, varnish, and turpentine have been added in the proportion of half an ounce of each to the pound. Labels prepared in the latter way do not fall off in damp cellars.

**Tobacco Juice Vapor for Plants.**—The vapor of tobacco juice has been tested in France as an insecticide in greenhouses with great success. Instead of burning or smoking the tobacco, which is a very offensive process to some persons, the tobacco is made into an extract by soaking or boiling, and the juice is then placed over a chafing dish, a fire, or the flame of an ordinary lamp, and deposited in the greenhouse or conservatory. Delicate plants which are very sensitive to smoke are not injured by this vapor, and it leaves no offensive atmosphere, while it effectually disposes of thrips, lice, scale insects, and slugs. One quart of tobacco juice vaporized in a house containing 35 cubic feet is an ample amount.

**Potato Ivory.**—The new vegetable ivory is prepared from ordinary potatoes. The tubers are peeled, the "eyes" cut out, and the discolored portions scraped away. After being soaked in acidulated water, they are boiled in sulphuric acid, then taken out and washed, first in warm water, afterward in cold. Potato ivory is said to be hard, durable, and elastic, and easily dyed.

**A Cement to Fasten Knife Handles** is made from one pound of colophony and eight ounces of sulphur, melted together and powdered. Two parts of the powder is then mixed with one part of iron filings, fine sand or brick dust, and the cavity in the handle filled with this mixture. The tang of the knife or fork is then heated and inserted into the cavity where it will hold with great tenacity.

**A Test for Adulterated Sugar.**—Place the suspected sugar in a beaker-glass or teacup, and an equal quantity of sugar known to be pure in a similar vessel. On adding a little water to each and placing the vessels in hot water, the adulterated sugar will melt much sooner than the other and appear like molasses. On allowing the two solutions to cool, the pure cane sugar will become solid again, while the adulterated article will remain a sirup.

**Substitute for Butter.**—N. Jepson, an English vegetarian, not wishing to use poor and adulterated animal fats, has sought a substitute, and found it in a composition for which the following is the formula: Take four ounces of the finest Brazilian nuts, pounded very fine in a mortar; four ounces pure olive oil; rub them into a smooth jelly; add eight ounces of fine wheat flour and a quarter of an ounce of salt. Rub the whole into a smooth paste, and use as butter.

**To make Sackcloth or Canvas Impervious.**—Sackcloth or canvas can be made perfectly impervious to moisture equal to leather by steeping it in a decoction of one pound of oak bark with fourteen pounds of boiling water. The cloth has to soak twenty-four hours, when it is taken out, passed through running water, and hung up to dry. This quantity is sufficient for eight yards of stuff. The flax and hemp fibers, in absorbing the tannin, are at the same time better fitted to resist wear.

**New Invention for Window Cleaning.**—An invention to facilitate the reversing of windows for cleaning them from the inside has been patented by Mr. Henry Becker, of New York City. The upper half of the window jams are adapted to swing on pivots, and the lower sash is raised until it is within the swinging frame and is locked in this position. Both sashes are then inverted by turning the swinging frame half way over. By this means the outsides of the sashes are turned to the inside, and they may be cleaned by a person inside the room, avoiding the danger from cleaning from the outside.

**Artificial Nourishment.**—Nourishment given in powders is practiced with success in Paris. Uncooked meat, from which the fat has been removed, is minced finely and dried in an oven. It is then reduced to powder by pounding in a mortar and passing through a fine sieve. Lentils, beans, peas, etc., can be prepared in the same way. In cases of consumption the treatment has said to have proved marvelously successful, and in general debility and nervous disorders, arising from weakness, restoration is rapid and permanent. A few spoonfuls of the powder are equal to the meal of a person with a healthy appetite. The powder, when bottled, will keep an indefinite time, and may be taken with a little milk, gravy, water, or other liquid.

### The "Newport."

THE "NEWPORT" is the name of a new bustle that possesses many novel and highly desirable features. It is a stylish shape, neither too broad nor too obtrusive, and is a comfortable length for sitting. It is made of strips of cold rolled steel, so arranged as to develop their greatest pliability, and when pressed almost flat, as in sitting, will immediately spring back into its original shape when the pressure is removed. These strips are supplemented by serpentine springs, placed across on the inside after the manner of the familiar saddle, that gives to the motion of the body; and a separate cover of silesia or silk is provided, as the steels are without the usual braid covering. From the materials used and the manner of construction, it cannot fail to be very durable, and will be especially desirable to use with the heavy costumes of the season.

### House Furnishing.

WE desire to call the attention of such of our readers as may be contemplating housekeeping to the card of Hadley, Cooper Institute, New York City, which appears in our columns. This firm have constantly on hand full lines of white and decorated French china and English porcelain Dinner, Tea and Chamber sets, as well as all house-furnishing goods, which they offer at popular prices. They make a specialty of sending their goods throughout the country on receipt of P. O. Money Order or Draft, or by Express, C. O. D. Illustrated Catalogue and price-list free on application.

DEMOREST'S MAGAZINE and *Floral World Magazine*. (Highland Park, Chicago), both one year for Two Dollars, if forwarded to the latter publication.