



### ❁ LAVA WORK. ❁

THIS new and beautiful method of decorating Armenian pottery, vases, bottles, umbrella-stands, picture-frames, etc., is done in the following manner: The lava comes in cans; the top of the can is made of thin tin and over this is a loose cover of thick tin. Remove the outside cover and cut the thin tin close to the side all round. When not in use place the loose cover tightly over the can. See that the surface of the vase or bottle to be decorated is thoroughly clean and dry, and cover it lightly with gum shellac; then apply the lava with a palette-knife, spreading on a coating about an eighth of an inch thick.

The next step is to produce a network of raised figures or designs in the lava. This is done by marking or scoring the surface with a sharpened pencil, the point being held firmly in the vase and moved about in a series of irregular curves; a series of ridges is produced by tangled scroll-work over the entire surface. When the marking is completed the article should be set aside to harden, which will take twenty-four hours.

When perfectly dry, apply a coat of lacquer evenly over the entire surface; this will dry in two hours. The lacquer comes in three-ounce bottles, and costs twenty-five cents. The work is now ready for the last coat, which may be any color of gold or bronze paint or any luster shade.

