INTRODUCTION OF CARPETS IN EUROPE.

THE first known carpets in modern Europe were brought into Spain by the Moors, who were great weavers, during their wanderings. When these Moorish carpets became known in Spain they were soon introduced into Italy by Venetian merchants, and thence they were supplied to Western Europe. Only three hundred years ago they were considered a great luxury in the mansions of wealthy Englishmen, and even in the palaces of royalty itself. Queen Elizabeth had one spread over rushes on the floor; her sister, who preceded her (the cruel Queen Mary), had only the rushes—not the common rushes, however, but sweet smelling reeds, which are still abundant in Norfolk. Some years before, their father, Henry VIII., had made an attempt to establish a carpet manufactory in England, but without success. During Elizabeth's reign, while Henry the Great—the well-known Protestant "King Henry of Navarre"—sat on the throne of France, the French learned the art of carpet weaving from the Persians. After James I. succeeded to the crown of England the art crossed the Channel, and this monarch contributed to the maintenance of carpet works at Mortlake. However, it was not until the latter half of the seventeenth century that much progress was made. In 1664, Colbert, the Prime Minister of Louis XIV. of France, established a large carpet manufactory at Beauvais, and a few years later the famous Gobelins' establishment was started. Brussels carpets were introduced into England from Tournay, in Belgium, rather more than a hundred years ago. The first of English manufacture were made at Wilton, but Kidderminster, Halifax and Glasgow supply most of the present day.

BUILT UP WOOD.

SEVERAL thin sheets of wood—they are called veneers, though they are sometimes an eighth of an inch thick—are glued one upon another, with the grain of each sheet crossing the grain of the sheet next above or below it at right angles; and, when the whole complex fabric has lost all power of resistance through being almost saturated with steaming glue, it is pressed into an almost homogeneous board without any cleavage whatever, and so without possibility of splitting. Every sort of wood, of course, can be built up. The inside layers can be cheap and the outside choice. No matter whether or not the different sheets naturally swell and shrink evenly together. They are too thin to exert much force. Their separate identities are lost in the common and overmastering union. The advantages of economy, strength in every direction and immunity from cracking are enough to give the fabric the readiest possible acceptance for whatever uses it may be adapted. It is already in use for broad, flat surfaces in cabinet work, especially where strength or permanence is wanted. It already competes with canvas for the use of artists and with binders' board for book covers. Its availability for any purpose appears to be a matter of expense and skill—never of quality. That it will be adapted to many uses is as sure as the inventive fertility of our mechanics.

A FABLE.

THERE were once four flies, and, as it happened, they were hungry one morning. The first settled upon a sausage of singularly appetizing appearance and made a hearty meal. But he speedily died of intestinal inflammation, for the sausage was adulterated with analine. The second fly breakfasted upon flour and forthwith succumbed to contraction of the stomach, owing to the inordinate quantity of alum with which the flour had been adulterated. The third fly was slaking his thirst with the contents of the milk jug, when violent cramps suddenly convulsed his frame, and he soon gave up the ghost, a victim to chalk adulteration. Seeing this the fourth fly, muttering to himself, "The sooner it's over the sooner to sleep," lighted upon a moistened sheet of paper exhibiting the counterfeit presentment of a death's head and the inscription "Fly Poison." Applying the tip of his proboscis to the device the fourth fly drank to his heart's content, growing more vigorous and cheerful at every mouthful, although expectant of his end. But he did not die. On the contrary, he throve and waxed fat. You see, even the fly poison was adulterated.

MARKING THINGS.

THE owner's name put plainly on grain bags, hoes, rakes, spades, shovels, steelyards, etc., and on large implements, is very convenient, and will often save their wandering and loss. We have long kept a steel punch, a piece of iron one-half inch square, the corners rounded off a little, the lower end terminating in a flat piece of steel, three-fourths of an inch wide. On the bottom edge of this the letters of the surname and initials of the given name are cut in relief. With this, and a hammer blow on its head, the name is cut into every implement, large and small. It is beaten into very soft iron, if there is any, otherwise into the wood, and has doubtless saved twenty times its cost (twenty-five cents a letter) in keeping a great variety of things from straying off, or remaining in possession of borrowers, who are thus precluded from saying of them "they did not know whose they were." These punches, made to order, can be got at moderate cost.

TO FRIGHTEN BRIDS.

IN Cochin China, says a writer, birds are frightened away from grain fields and fruit trees, and foxes from poultry houses, by the following device: "Old bottles are taken, the mouths corked, through the cork a thread is passed with its end hanging down, where a small piece of board, slate or any other object presenting surface to the wind, is attached. At the height of the thickest part of the bottle a nail is fixed in a way that the thread agitated by the wind makes the nail beat against the bottle like sounding a bell. After preparing a number of bottles in this way strong wooden rods are placed in the soil, and on their top these bottles are put by means of a string fastened at the neck of the bottle. When the bottles are unlike in size and shape the concert of sounds on them is often a very pleasing one."