

MAKING FIREWORKS.

Some Pyrotechnic Products Must Dry In the Open Air.

TRYING FOR NEW DESIGNS.

Staffs of Artists Continually Devising Color Schemes to Be Worked Out in Fire—The Construction of the Set Pieces—Work of the Chemists.

The first step in manufacturing fireworks is the making of the cases, or shells, as the cylinders or other receptacles in which the explosives and the chemicals are placed are called. Practically all of these are made of innumerable sheets of tissue paper pasted and rolled together until the thickness required is attained.

Out of doors in pleasant weather the long lines of fuse—"quick match" they are called—are made. These are wound on reels six or seven feet across. Their basis is loose cotton cord covered with various highly inflammable chemicals.

All the year around the artists on the staff of the pyrotechnic manufacturers are taxing their brains designing color schemes to be worked out in fire. Outside of the big set pieces, which are much in vogue, a great deal of attention is given to rockets, bombs and rocket bombs, of which there are innumerable kinds.

These colors are imparted by the heated vapors of certain metals. Sodium, for instance, gives a yellow light, calcium red, strontium crimson and barium green.

Every fireworks manufacturer has his carefully guarded trade secrets. Pyrotechnics in its various branches and as a whole is taught in no university, and there is little printed literature on the subject.

The construction of the set pieces, especially if they are large, is a huge task. First the artist draws the picture. It is complete in every detail of outline and shade of color.

Then come men with thousands of big pins—ordinary pins, but about an inch long. These are set in the rattan an inch apart. These are followed by other men, who cut the heads off the pins. After this comes a gang of men with bundles of little fireworks, two inches long by one-quarter to three-quarter inches in diameter.

After this has been done another gang comes with hundreds of feet of "quick match" and connects all these thousands of "gerbes" together. Loose ends are left here and there for firing when the piece is in place ready to be set off.

Without a friend the world is a wilderness.—Latin Proverb.

Cholera Infantum Cured.

"Something like two years ago my baby, which was then about a year old, was taken seriously ill with cholera infantum, vomiting and purging profusely," writes J. F. Dempsey of Dempsey, Ala.

DRUG DREAMS.

Queer Visions Conjured Up in the Brains of Daring Experimenters.

An experimenter with the Mexican drug mescal is rewarded by many and varied visions. Before him flit myriads of dainty butterfly forms, glistening, iridescent, fibrous wings of insects, revolving vessels on whose highly polished concave surface of mother-of-pearl many strange and vivid hues play.

He may take up a pen for the purpose of making notes, but will find himself unable to use it. A pencil, however, proves easy of manipulation. As he writes his paper is covered with a soft golden light, and his bags, seen indirectly, appear bronzed, scaled, fantastically pigmented and flushed with red.

Tiring of the visions, he may light the gas, which immediately fills the room with a glorious radiance, while wonderfully colored shadows of red, green and violet flit here and there.

A medical experimenter in Kentucky soon after taking a large dose of hashish began to feel very excited; a feeling of inner joyousness possessed him; all fatigue seemed banished forever, and his mind ran riot, one bizarre idea after another rapidly passing through his mind.

While waiting for a doctor he experienced alternate spells of lucidity and periods when all connections between himself and the outside world seemed to be severed, when a chaos of disjointed ideas and wild reveries obsessed him.

He imagined himself surrounded by grotesque, menacing, cruel visaged monsters. He felt himself expanding, dilating, dissolving into space, as he ascended steep precipices, covered with Brobdignagian creatures some what like leopards, overhanging enormous abysses, the while he was overwhelmed by a horrible, rending, unutterable despair.

MAKING GOLD LEAF.

The Metal is Beaten For Hours by Men, Then Finished by Girls. In one of the downtown business streets may be seen sticking from one of the upper windows a massive arm and hand, the hand grasping a huge hammer and the whole sign gilded. It is the sign of the gold beaters' establishment, where thousands of the gold sheets are turned out after having been packed by girls.

Gold leaf is packed more by the aid of the breath than by the hands. The operation of transferring a sheet of almost transparent gold leaf from one place to another is so delicate that it is possible to do it only by a light puff of the breath. It takes most girls six weeks to acquire this knack, and some girls are never able to acquire it.

After the gold has been beaten it is handed over to the girls, who lift the unshaped leaf from the mold with a pair of wooden pliers, flatten it out on a sheepskin cushion by gently blowing on it, cut it to a perfect square, replace between the leaves of the book and flatten it out with the breath.

Logical Result. On the notice board of a church near Manchester the other day the following announcements appeared together: A potato pie supper will be held on Saturday evening. Subject for Sunday evening, "A Night of Agony."—Manchester Guardian.

In Later Years. "We," remarked the young married woman, "try to see how few quarrels we can have in a year."

She Does. Suffragette—We believe that a woman should get a man's wages. Married Man—Well, judging from my own experience, she does.—Boston Transcript.

Washington's Plague Spots lie in the low, marshy bottoms of the Potomac, the breeding ground of malaria germs. These germs cause chills, fever and ague, biliousness, jaundice, lassitude, weakness and general debility and bring suffering or death to thousands yearly.

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