

THE GLOSS ON SILK.

The following description of the method of giving gloss to silk is extremely interesting:
The method of giving an artificial gloss to the woven pieces was invented in 1863. The discovery of the method was due to pure hazard. Octavio Mey, a merchant at Lyons, being one day deep in meditation, mechanically put a small bunch of silk threads into his mouth and began to chew them. On taking them out again into his hand he was struck by the peculiar lustre they had acquired, and was not a little astonished to find that this lustre continued to adhere to the threads even after they had dried. He at once bethought him that there was a secret worth unravelling in this fact, and being a man of wit, he set himself to study the question. The result of his experiment was the *procédé de lustrage*, or "glossing method."
The manner of imparting the artificial gloss is like all the other details of the weaving art, undergoing certain changes in the course of years. At present it is done in this wise. Two rollers revolving on their axes, are set up at a few feet from the ground, and at about ten yards, in a straight line from each other. Round the first of these rollers is wound the piece of silk of twenty, forty, or one hundred metres' length, as the case may be. Ten yards of the silk are then unwound, and then fixed by means of a brass rod in a groove on the second roller, care being taken to stretch the silk between the two cylinders as tightly as possible. A workman with a thin blade of metal in his hand daintily covers the uppermost side of the silk (that which will form the inside of the piece) with a coating of gum. On the floor under the outstretched silk is a small tramway upon which runs a sort of tender filled with glowing coals. As fast as one man covers the silk with gum, another workman takes the tender up and down so as to dry the mucilage before it has had time to permeate the texture. This is a very delicate operation, for if, on the one hand, the gum is allowed to run through the silk, or if on the other, the coals are kept too long under one place, the piece is spoiled. In the first instance it would be stained beyond all power of cleansing, and in the second it would be burned. None but trusty workmen are confided with this task; and even with the most proved hands there is sometimes damage. When ten yards of the piece have been gummed and dried they are rolled about the second cylinder and ten more are unwound. This is repeated till the end. But the silk, with its coating of dry gum, is then stiff to the touch and crackles like cream-laid note paper when folded. To make it soft and pliant again, it is rolled anew some six or seven times under two different cylinders, one of which has been warmed by the introduction of hot coals inside, and this is sufficient to give it that bright new look which we all so much admire in fresh silk.

THE ROYAL MAUSOLEUM

[From the London and China Express.]
The magnificent Mausoleum erected by Her Majesty having been completed, the final transfer of the coffin containing the remains of His Royal Highness the late Prince Consort, from the tomb below the building to the granite sarcophagus in the central chamber, was made last week. There was no ceremony, and the change was made under the direction of the architect. The tomb house stands in the enclosed private grounds of Frogmore House, the residence of their Royal Highnesses Prince and Princess Christian, in Windsor Park. Since December, 1862, the corpse of His Royal Highness has lain in the temporary tomb in which it was placed upon its removal from the Royal vault at St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle.
The foundation stone of the Royal Mausoleum was laid by Her Majesty the Queen on the 15th of March, 1862, and upon the 17th of December in that year the building was consecrated by the Right Rev. the Bishop of Oxford, in the presence of the Queen and Royal Family; the remains of the late Prince being removed on the following day. The Mausoleum, which has been erected under the supervision of Mr. Humbert, the architect, is in the shape of a cross, and has been constructed of Portland stone and granite, the walls being extremely thick. In external length it is about eighty feet, the breadth seventy feet, and the height from the floor to the top of the roof being seventy feet. The extreme height is eighty-three feet. In the interior the Queen's coronation chamber thirty feet in diameter and sixty-five feet high. All the walls are adorned with colored marble and paintings, and in the middle of the central chamber has been placed the granite sarcophagus. The lid is adorned with a recumbent figure in marble of his late Royal Highness—a work which, it is understood, was entrusted to Baron Marochetti. The sarcophagus is highly polished, and within it there is said to be room for another coffin.

FISH.

"While living at Durham," says Dr. Warwick, "I took a walk one evening in Lord Stamford's park. On reaching a pond in which fish were kept ready for use I observed a pike of some six pounds. At my approach he darted away like an arrow. In his hurry he knocked his head against an iron hook fixed in a post in the water, fracturing his skull, and injuring the optic nerve on one side of his head. He suffered terrible pain; he plunged into the mud, floundered hither and thither, and, last, leaping out of the water, fell on the bank. On examination, a portion of the brain was seen protruding through the fractured skull. This I carefully restored to its place, making use of a small silver toothpick to raise the splinters of the broken bone. The fish remained quiet during the operation; afterwards he plunged into the pond. At first his sufferings appeared to be relieved, but in the course of a few minutes he began rushing right and left, until he leaped out of the water. I called the keeper, and with his assistance applied a bandage to the wound. That done, we restored him to the pond, and left him to his fate. Next morning as soon as I reached the water's edge, the pike swam to meet me quite close to the bank, and laid his head upon my feet. I thought this a strange proceeding. Without further delay I examined the wound, and found it was healing nicely. I strolled

some time by the side of the pond. The fish swam after me following me, and turning as I turned. The following day, I brought a few young friends with me to see the fish. He swam towards me, as before. Little by little he became tame as to come at my whistle and eat of my hand. With other persons, on the contrary, he continued as shy and wild as ever."

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