

British opium. : The Society have for some years offered premiums to encourage the cultivation of the white poppy in this country, ...

Contributors

Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures, and Commerce (Great Britain)

Publication/Creation

[London] : [publisher not identified] : [1825]

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/f4vzz9j6>

License and attribution

This work has been identified as being free of known restrictions under copyright law, including all related and neighbouring rights and is being made available under the Creative Commons, Public Domain Mark.

You can copy, modify, distribute and perform the work, even for commercial purposes, without asking permission.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

He covers the ornament, and all those parts that are not to be corroded, with a composition that will resist water. Wax, dissolved in spirits of turpentine, and mixed with white lead, may be used with a camel-hair pencil; or turpentine varnish, with a little animal oil and white lead, and will be found to work more freely than the wax. Spirits of turpentine must be used in pencilling with these compositions. The use of animal oil is to prevent the varnish from becoming very hard, which would render its removal, after corrosion, extremely difficult. The ornament, and other parts which are intended to be preserved, being completely covered with the composition, it is suffered to remain a few hours to dry. The article is then put into a vessel of rain water, in which it must remain forty-eight hours, or longer, according as the ornament may be required to have more or less relief. When the corrosion is completed, the varnish or wax must be removed with spirits of turpentine, which may be applied with a bit of sponge, and then be wiped off with soft rags.

The article, being made quite clean, is now rubbed over with a soft brush, dipped into finely-powdered plaster of Paris, and is applied in the dry state. This powder fills the pores of the corroded parts, giving a certain degree of opacity, similar to that which is left from the tools of the sculptor. It forms a good ground that contrasts well with the ornament, and makes it appear with greater advantage than if left merely in the corroded state.

The alabaster of which the vase is made was procured from a quarry at Chellaston, about four miles from Derby.

To clean Alabaster Sculptures.

Spots of grease are first to be removed with spirits of turpentine; the article is then immersed in water, where it is suffered to remain about ten minutes, or, perhaps, a little longer, if the thing be very dirty; it is then rubbed over with a painter's brush, suffered to dry, and then treated with plaster of Paris as above, when the article will be found perfectly clean, as if just from the hands of the sculptor.

A piece of sculpture that would take several days to clean by the usual way, with fish skin and Dutch rushes, is, by this process, completed in half an hour.

No. VI.**BRITISH OPIUM.**

THE Society have for some years offered premiums to encourage the cultivation of the white poppy in this country, for the purpose of obtaining opium from it. The communications received on this subject from Mr. Young, of Edinburgh, from Mr. Jeston, and from Messrs. Cowley and Staines, are inserted in the 37th, 38th, 41st, and 42d volumes of the Transactions. From these it appears, that in common seasons, and by proper management, the produce per acre of opium is such as to yield a fair return of profit to the grower. The opinions of professional men have also been published, showing that British opium, in its medicinal properties, is at least as

efficacious as the best in the market, namely, that from Turkey. It still remained, however, a desideratum, to ascertain, by a careful comparative experiment, the relative proportions, in British and foreign opium, of that vegetable principle called morphia, to which the effects of this drug on the human constitution are owing.

Mr. H. Hennell, a member of the Society, and chemical operator at Apothecaries' Hall, where the extraction of morphia from opium forms part of the regular business of that great establishment, was requested to undertake this examination. Opium prepared by Messrs. Cowley and Staines was furnished by the Society for this purpose, and the result was, that 700 grains of dried Turkey opium yielded 48 grains of morphia, and an equal quantity of dried English opium, yielded 53 grains of morphia.

The process pursued with each was, to infuse the opium in dilute acetic acid, and then to decompose the acetic solution by ammonia: the precipitate thus obtained was digested in hot alcohol, and the morphia was obtained therefrom by crystallization.

PAPERS
IN
POLITE ARTS.

No. I.

ETCHING GROUND FOR ENGRAVERS.

The THANKS of the Society were this session voted to Mr. EDMUND TURRELL, of Clarendon-square, Somers-town, for the following communication on the mode of preparing Etching Ground for Engravers.

THERE are few articles of more importance to copper-plate engravers than the compound commonly called etching ground. This observation need not be enforced by any practical illustration, as all engravers have at one time or another had sufficient experience to establish the fact.

As there are many recipes in existence, and several of them almost equally good, it is very difficult to make choice without considerable experience, and even then, however judiciously the materials may be proportioned,