

DYEING, *History of.* The origin of the art of dyeing is involved in that obscurity which pervades the history of all those arts connected with the common wants and necessities of life. They have originated in times beyond the reach of history or tradition, and are the offspring of the natural faculties of man directed by the great primeval wants of food, shelter, and raiment: The art of dyeing is, of course, posterior to many of these, and is founded less on the necessities than passions of mankind. A love of distinction is common to man in every stage of civilization, but that passion for admiration which is displayed in a love of finery and ornament is peculiar to him in his most barbarous and uncultivated state. Hence savage nations delight in brilliant and gaudy colours, and many paint their skins, and adorn themselves with feathers, stones, and shells of various hues. History has not furnished us even with her fables on the origin of dyeing; but from analogy, as well as observation of the practice of barbarous nations at the present day, we may trace the rude beginnings from whence the art has sprung. The rich and gaudy plumage of birds, the finely spotted skins of animals, coloured stones, and such other substances as nature herself supplies, would afford the first materials for savage finery and dress. The caps and mantles of the chiefs of the South Sea islands, such as were brought home by captain Cook, are composed almost wholly of feathers richly coloured.

It is easy to conceive that accident must furnish innumerable instances of observation even to the eye of a savage, that many of these colours were capable of imitation, and that some substances readily imparted their colour to others. The bruising of a fruit, a flower, or leaf, is one of the most natural and obvious occurrences to which we should look for the first notion of applying vegetable juices to dyeing, and doubtless the knowledge of the tingent properties of various herbs was thus early acquired. The art, however,
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must have waited the progress of industry and luxury, before it became extended and improved. Long antecedent, however, to the period when authentic history begins, it must have made considerable progress. Moses speaks of stuffs dyed blue, and purple, and scarlet, and of sheep-skins dyed red. These colours require great skill in the preparation, and the knowledge of them implies a very advanced state of the art at that period.

The colour which appears to have been earliest brought to perfection, and which was held in such high estimation among the ancients, is purple. It was to chance alone, according to the tradition of antiquity, that they owed this discovery. A shepherd's dog, incited by hunger, having broken a shell on the sea shore, his mouth became stained with such a colour as excited the admiration of all who saw it. They endeavoured to apply it to stuffs, and succeeded. There is some discordance in the details of the ancient writers of the circumstances of this event. Some place this discovery in the reign of Phœnix, second king of Tyre, that is to say, a little more than 500 years before Christ: others, at the time that Minos the first reigned in Crete, about 1439 years before the Christian era. But the greatest number agree in giving the honour of the invention of dyeing purple stuffs to the Tyrian Hercules. He gave his first trials to the king of Phœnicia, who was so jealous of the beauty of this new colour, that he forbade the use of it to all his subjects, reserving it for the garments of royalty alone.

Some authors relate the story differently. Hercules's dog having stained his mouth with a shell, which he had broken on the sea shore, Tyra, a nymph of whom Hercules was enamoured, was so charmed with the beauty of the colour, that she declared to her lover she would see him no more till he brought her a suit dyed the same. Hercules thought of a way to satisfy his mistress; he collected a great number of the shells, and succeeded in staining a robe of the colour the nymph had demanded. Such are the different traditions handed down by the ancients of the origin of the purple dye. They are evidently blended with fiction, yet they may serve to fix the epoch of this discovery, which appears to have been made about fifteen centuries before the Christian era. Whether the purple of Tyre was similar to that mentioned in holy writ, as used by Moses for the vestments of the high priest, and the ornaments of the tabernacle, may admit of some dispute, since it is not certain, according to M. Huet, that the word *argaman*, of the Hebrew text, which all the interpreters translate by *purpura*, means in reality that colour.

The testimony of Homer confirms the antiquity of this discovery. This great poet and accurate observer, ascribes to the heroes of that age, in which we have supposed it became known, ornaments and cloths of purple.

The ancients had such an esteem for this colour, that it was especially consecrated to the service of the deity. Moses, as we have just observed, used stuffs of purple for the works of the tabernacle, and the habits of the high priest. The Babylonians gave purple habits to their idols; it was the same with most of the other people of antiquity. The Pagans were even persuaded that the purple dye had a particular virtue, and was capable of appeasing the wrath of the gods.

Purple was also the distinguishing mark of the greatest dignities from the earliest times. We have seen that the king of Phœnicia, to whom tradition says the first essays of this colour were presented, had it reserved for the sovereign. Among the presents which the Israelites made to Gideon, the scripture makes mention of purple habits found among the spoils of the kings of Midian. Homer gives us plainly

to understand, that it only belonged to princes to wear this colour; and we may remark, that this custom was observed by all the nations of antiquity.

It is not easy to give a clear and precise idea of the process followed by the ancients in the production of this highly valued colour. We find some details in the works of Aristotle and of Pliny, in whose days the practice was very common, but they are not sufficiently circumstantial. The purple dye, according to Pliny, was drawn from many species of shell fish. The best were found near the isle where New Tyre was built. They fished for them in other parts of the Mediterranean. The coasts of Africa were famous for the purple of Getulia. The coasts of Europe supplied the purple of Laconia, which was held in great esteem.

In the 36th chapter of his seventh book, Pliny ranges in two classes the different kinds of shell fish which produced the purple. The first comprehended the smaller species under the denomination of *buccinum*, from their resemblance to a hunting horn; the second included those denominated *purpura*. These Fabius Columna conceives to have been also distinguished by the generic name of *nurex*, though others suppose this to have signified all the different species generally. All these several species, the chief of which are enumerated by Pliny, appear to have given colours of different shades, from which, by mixture of the liquors in various proportions, other varieties of colour were produced. A few drops only of this precious dye were obtained from each fish, by extracting a white vein placed in the throat; but to avoid this trouble with the smaller species, according to Aristotle and Pliny, the whole fish was bruised in a mortar, a practice which, according to Vitruvius, was often followed with the larger. The liquor, when extracted, was mixed with a considerable portion of salt, and suffered to remain three days; after which it was diluted with five or six times its quantity of water, and digested, moderately hot, during ten days, in a lead or tin vessel, skimming it frequently, to separate all impurities. The wool was afterwards put in, being well washed, cleaned, and properly prepared. After soaking five hours, it was taken out, carded, and again immersed in the boiling dye, till all the colour was taken up or exhausted. To produce particular shades of colour, nitre, urine, and a marine plant called fucus, of which the best kind is found on the rocks of the isle of Crete, were occasionally added.

The Tyrians, by the confession of all antiquity, succeeded best in dyeing stuffs purple. Their process differed a little from what we have related above. They used nothing to make their colour but purple shells taken out at sea. They made a bath of the liquor they drew from these fishes. They steeped their wool in this a certain time, and afterwards took it out and steeped it in another boiler, in which was nothing but *buccina* or trumpet fish. This is all the ancients tell us of the practice of the Tyrians. Wool, which had received this double Tyrian dye, (*diabapha*) was so very costly, that in the reign of Augustus, each pound sold for 1000 Roman denarii, about 36*l.* sterling. Nor need we wonder at this excessive price, when we consider the tedious nature of the process, and the small quantity of dye afforded by the shell fish, from each of which not more than a single drop was obtained. For 50*lb.* of wool they used no less than 200*lb.* of the liquor of the *buccinum*, and 100*lb.* of that of the *purpura*, or 6*lb.* of liquor to 1*lb.* of wool. We ought not to be much surprized, therefore, that this colour varied in value even with gold itself. The ancient writers distinguish many different shades of purple. One of them, which was very dark, appears to have been a kind of violet, inclining towards a reddish hue. "*Nigrantis rosæ colore subluceus.*"

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sublucens," Pliny, lib. 9. sec. 50. Another, less esteemed, was a kind of crimson. "Rubens color, nigrante deterior," lib. 9. sec. 62. The most valued of all, and in which the Tyrians particularly excelled, was a deep red purple, of the colour of coagulated blood. "Laus ei summa in colore sanguinis concreti," Pliny, *ibid.* It is in allusion to this that Homer and Virgil give to blood the epithet *purple*. There was a fourth kind known in later times, very different from those we have spoken of. The colour was whitish; an account of which may be seen in Perrault's translation of Vitruvius.

The purple has been almost every where a mark of distinction attached to high birth and dignity. It was an ornament of the first offices of Rome; but luxury, which was carried to great excess in that capital of the world, rendered the use of it common among the opulent, till the emperors referred to themselves the right of wearing it. Soon afterwards it became the symbol of their inauguration. They appointed officers to superintend the manufactories, principally established in Phœnicia, where it was prepared solely for their use. The punishment of death was decreed against all who should have the audacity to wear it, though covered with another colour. The penalty, so tyrannically denounced against this whimsical species of treason, doubtless occasioned the loss of the art of dyeing purple; first in the West, but much later in the East, where it flourished considerably till the eleventh century.

It appears that some kinds of purple preserved their colour for a very long time. Plutarch, in his life of Alexander, relates that the Greeks found in the treasury of the king of Persia a great quantity of purple which had not lost its beauty, though it was 190 years old.

It is commonly asserted, on the authority of most of the ancient writers, that the purple had a very strong and disagreeable odour. It would appear, however, from Pliny, lib. 9. sec. 36. that this was the case only with some particular kinds. After extolling the beauty of the true purple, and allowing that it was justly an object of ambition, he asks, how it happens that the other kinds of purple, obtained from the shell-fish called *conchyliæ*, should be so highly priced, considering the stinking disagreeable odour which the stuffs have that are dyed with them.

After all, the boasted purple of antiquity was a miserable dye compared with many which we now possess, and affords a strong proof of the imperfect state of the art at the period when it was held in such esteem. It was, no doubt, the most rich and brilliant colour then known.

It is a curious fact, that Mr. Bruce, whose acquaintance with ancient authors ought to have convinced him of the contrary, maintains that the Tyrian purple was produced with cochineal, and that the story of its being the blood of a shell-fish was invented and propagated by the Tyrians with a view of deceiving other nations, and keeping the art of dyeing this colour exclusively to themselves. He even adduces this as a proof of the early intercourse carried on with the new world, in times long antecedent to those in which we suppose the discovery of the continent of America was first made.

The ancients obtained from the *coccus*, now known by the name of kermes, a colour which was almost as highly esteemed as purple, and which was sometimes mixed with it. Pliny informs us it was employed in the preparation of the imperial robes. It was generally called scarlet, and was sometimes confounded with the purple. The use of the *coccus* in dyeing is very ancient, since it appears from the commentators, to be alluded to in Exodus, chap. xxxix. ver. 1. and 28.

Our materials for a history of the art of dyeing, during the ages of classical antiquity, are very scanty. Amongst the Greeks the useful arts were degraded even in the eyes of philosophers, and this contempt descended to the Romans; for Pliny, speaking of dyeing, avowedly neglects the description of operations which are unconnected with the liberal arts. "Nec tingendi rationem omisissimus, si unquam ea liberalium artium fuisset."

The art of dyeing among the Greeks appears to have made no great progress; the dress of the people was of cloth which had received no dye, and which might be washed. The rich preferred coloured clothes; they esteemed such as were dyed scarlet with the kermes, but they valued still more highly those of purple.

The few details relative to dyeing into which Pliny has entered in his great work, are almost wholly confined to the purple, of which we have given an account. The few scattered facts to be met with, that serve at all to illustrate the history of the art, we shall briefly notice. Some varieties of colour, derived from the purple, and produced by different mixtures of the various kinds of shell-fish, and also by admixture with the dye of the *coccus*, or kermes, appear to have been fashionable in Pliny's time. These originated, according to our author, in the errors and failure of the dyers, who having, in the first instance, spoiled their cloth, endeavoured to hide the defects by giving it another shade; hence arose those compound twice-dyed colours which were soon held in high repute.

Besides the Tyrian purple, scarlet, and the varieties and compounds of those colours, Pliny mentions yellow as a very ancient dye, and highly esteemed in former times. The veil which the bride wore on her wedding day was of yellow, and none but women were permitted to use it. They had also a colour resembling the cyanos, or blue-bottle, and another like the golden yellow flower *elichryson*. None of these colours, says Pliny, were known, or at least in request in the days of Alexander the Great; for the Greek writers, who wrote soon after his decease, make no mention of them. They are evidently, however, of Greek origin, as appears from their names, which, though Greek, were current in Italy in Pliny's time.

The use of vegetable dyes appears to have been in a great measure unknown to the Romans; though the inhabitants of Gaul, according to Pliny, imitated all colours, even the Tyrian purple and the scarlet, with the juice of certain herbs. In the eleventh chapter of the thirty-fifth book of Pliny's history, is preserved a valuable notice of the process followed by the Egyptians in dyeing linen. They stained, says he, white cloth, not with colours, but with certain drugs, which have the property of absorbing them, but which exhibit no appearance of any dye till they have been boiled some time in a cauldron, from which they are withdrawn painted or stained of various colours. What is most extraordinary, says Pliny, is, that the cauldron containing only colour of one kind should impart to the cloth shades of various hues according to the nature of the drugs which were laid on, and the colours are so fixed that they can never be washed out, but are more durable and fixed than if they had never been immersed in the boiling dye.

We have here a tolerably accurate description of the process of calico printing; and the only mention in any ancient author of an art which has existed for ages past in the East, and is practised there at this day, probably with little variation from the mode described by Pliny.

The art of dyeing linen appears not to have been known in Greece before Alexander's invasion of India, where they dyed

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dyed the sails of his vessels of different colours. The Greeks seem to have borrowed this art from the Indians.

We may form some idea of the state of the art of dyeing amongst the Romans, from the enumeration of the different colours which were in use, and the substances employed in producing them. In addition to those enumerated by Pliny, we find, that in the equestrian games of the circus, the different divisions were distinguished by the colours *green*, color prasinus; *orange*, rufatus; *grey*, venetus; and *white*. We shall enumerate, after Mr. Bischoff, who has minutely examined the subject, the ingredients employed at that time in the art of dyeing, in addition to the two important ones already mentioned, the purple fish and cocculus.

1. Alum. It is probable, from what we shall state hereafter, that the ancients were unacquainted with our alum in its state of purity.

2. Alkanet. Suidas says, that this substance was also used by women as a paint.

3. The blood of birds, which was used amongst the Jews.

4. The fucus; that of Crete was preferred, and it was generally employed as a ground or preparative for valuable colours.

5. Broom.

6. The violet, from which the Gauls prepared a kind of purple.

7. Lotos medicago arborea; snail trefoil; the bark was used in dyeing skins, and the root in dyeing wool.

8. The bark of the walnut-tree and the peel of the shell.

9. Madder. We are not certain whether the madder of the ancients was the same as ours, or another root of the same tribe.

10. Woad (glastum). This plant was undoubtedly in use among the ancients, but we do not know whether their preparation of it was the same as ours.

We are not to infer, however, that these were the only substances employed by the ancients in the art of dyeing; many more being, in all probability, in use, of which we have no account. Indigo (indicum nigrum) is mentioned by Pliny, and though some doubts have been entertained by his commentators respecting the true nature of this substance, some supposing it to have been Indian ink, yet it is very evident he meant the indigo of the moderns, from the purple smoke which he says it emitted when set on fire, and which we believe is peculiar to indigo. It was never, however, we believe, employed in dyeing, but simply as a pigment.

India was the nursery of the arts and sciences, which were afterwards spread and perfected among other nations. Accidents, which had a tendency to improve the art, could not fail to be multiplied rapidly in a country rich in natural productions, which requires little labour for the support of its inhabitants, and the population of which was favoured by the bounty of nature and the simplicity of manners, till it was opposed by the tyranny of succeeding conquerors. But religious prejudices, and the unalterable division into casts, soon put shackles upon industry; the arts became stationary, and it would seem that the knowledge of dyeing cotton in that country was as far advanced in the time of Alexander as it is at present.

The beautiful colours which we observe in their printed calicoes, would lead us to suppose that the art of dyeing had then attained a high degree of perfection, yet we find, from the details of those who have witnessed their operations, that the Indian processes are so complicated, tedious, and imperfect, that they would be impracticable in any other

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country, on account of the difference in the price of labour. The art of printing calicoes has been practised in India at least twenty-two centuries; for the historians of Alexander's invasion of that ill-fated country speak of their flowered cloths or chintz. If they excelled therefore in the richness and brilliancy of two or three colours; it is to be attributed to the superior quality of some of their dyes, peculiar to their own country, the effect of which was perhaps heightened by the length and multiplicity of their operations. The knowledge of this art appears to have spread over a considerable part of Asia. It was practised, and is to this day, by the Persians; and we have seen that in Plixy's time, it was established in Egypt.

From the fifth volume of the "Memoires concernant l'Histoire, les Sciences, les Arts, les Mœurs, &c. des Chinois," it appears, that wool was never worn in China but as a substitute for fur, and that cotton and silk, being the only substances ever dyed by the inhabitants, received all their colours from vegetable tingent matters; that their colours were principally red, blue, violet, and what is called a woad colour; and that under the three first dynasties the business of dyeing was chiefly practised by the female part of each family, for its own particular use; and it probably continued to be practised without any thing like principle or science until near the end of the seventh century, when the Chinese discarding their own, borrowed the art and means of dyeing which were then in use among the Indians and Persians; and it is said, that alum and copperas, which the Chinese did not use before, were among the means so borrowed; a fact which renders it probable, that there was little, if any thing, in the Chinese art of dyeing, of which the loss need now be regretted.

It appears, however, that long before this time a knowledge of the uses of alum and of iron in dyeing had spread from Hindoostan and Persia westward to Egypt, and thence to Greece and Rome. Bergmann, indeed, and after him, Beckmann, have represented the alum of the ancients as different from the crystallized salt of the moderns; and have supposed that the varieties of alum mentioned by Dioscorides, were stalaçites, containing but little alum, and consisting chiefly of calcareous earth. Nature, however, does produce some, though but little, crystallized alum, particularly in Egypt and some parts of Asia; and it probably was in this state that its good effect in dyeing had been first observed, before mankind were led to the means and operations since employed for separating and collecting it from the various aluminous ores. Bergmann informs us, that the facitious salt which is now called alum, was first discovered in the eastern countries, and that among the most early works established for the preparation of alum, we may justly number that of *Roccho*, a city in Syria, now called Edeffa, hence the appellation of *roch alum*. He adds, that Bartholomew Perdis, or Pernix, a merchant of Genoa, who had been at Roccho, discovered the matrix of alum in the island of Ichia, about the year 1459, and established a manufactory there; at the same time, John de Castro, who had visited the manufactories at Constantinople, discovered a matrix at Tolfa, by means of the *ilex aquifolium*, which he had also observed to grow in the adjacent mountains of Turkey; and his opinion was confirmed by the taste of the stones. The attempts made by the Genoese at Viterbium and at Volaterra succeeded extremely well; and the preparation of it in Italy soon increased wonderfully fast. The first manufactory of alum in England was established in the reign of Elizabeth, at Gisborough, by one Thomas Chaloner.

In the fifth century all the arts were lost throughout the West, except a few, which in a state of decay were preserved

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in Italy; and no traces were left of knowledge, industry, or humanity.

Muratori quotes a manuscript of the eighth century, in which we find a description of some dyes, principally for skins, and some processes connected with the arts; but the Latin, which is almost unintelligible, and the chasms we find here and there, prevent us from being able to form a just idea of these processes.

The arts were better preserved in the East, where articles of luxury were procured by some of the great, even so late as the twelfth century. During the crusades, the Venetians derived their power from the barbarous mania of the age: their commerce increased; the arts were established among them, and improved by the industry of the Greeks, and spread from thence through the other parts of Italy. In the year 1338, Florence contained two hundred manufacturers, who are said to have made from seventy to eighty thousand pieces of cloth, which, as an object of commerce, were worth twelve hundred thousand crowns of gold.

It is said that archil was accidentally discovered by a Florentine merchant, about the year 1300. Having observed that urine imparted a very fine colour to a certain species of moss, he made experiments, and learned to prepare archil. He kept his discovery secret a long time; his posterity, a branch of which still exists, according to Dominique Manni, have retained the appellation of Rucellai, from oreiglia, the Spanish term for that kind of moss.

The arts continued for a long time to be cultivated in Italy with increasing success. In the year 1429, the first collection of the processes employed in dyeing appeared at Venice under the name of "Mariogola del' arte dei tentori;" a second edition, much improved, came out in 1510. A certain person, named Gioran Ventura Rosetti, formed the design of rendering this description more useful and extensive. He travelled through the different parts of Italy, and the adjacent countries, where the arts had begun again to flourish, in order to make himself acquainted with the various processes employed, and he published, under the title "Plictho de l'arte de tentori," &c. a collection which, according to Mr. Bischoff, is the first that united the different processes, and which ought to be regarded as the leading step toward the perfection which the art of dyeing has attained. This work was printed at Venice, in 1548; a French translation of it appeared at Paris in 1716. It is remarkable that in the work entitled "Plictho," not a word is said either of cochineal or indigo; from which we may conclude that these two dyes were either unknown or not employed at that time in Italy.

The first indigo used in Europe appears to have been brought from the East Indies by the Dutch. India was doubtless the country where that valuable substance was first produced. The uncivilized inhabitants of other countries have, indeed, discovered modes of obtaining colouring matter, very nearly resembling that of indigo, from other plants, as the *isatis tinctoria*, or woad, and the *genipa americana*, but they obtained these matters in a liquid form only, and employed them in their recent state.

The natives of India, however, went farther, they precipitated and collected, in a dry solid form, the colouring matter of indigo, and discovered the means of afterwards dissolving and applying it to stuffs. In Africa, the Mandingo negroes, according to Mr. Park, dye their cloth of a lasting blue colour, by the following simple process. The leaves of the indigo, when fresh gathered, are pounded in a wooden mortar, and mixed in a large earthen jar, with a strong ley of wood ashes; chamber-ley is sometimes added.

The cloth is steeped in this mixture, and allowed to remain until it has acquired the proper shade. In Kaarta and Ladamar, where indigo is not plentiful, they collect the leaves and dry them in the sun, and when they wish to use them, they reduce a sufficient quantity to powder, and mix it with the lye as before. "Either way," says Mr. Park, "the colour is very beautiful, and equal to the best Indian or European blue." The use of indigo was known to the Mexicans before the arrival of the Spaniards, and Clavigero, in his history of that country, gives an account of the method of obtaining it. Hernandez had long before described the plant as being indigenous in Mexico, and employed by its ancient inhabitants; and Ferdinand Columbus, in his "Life of Christopher Columbus," mentions it as one of the native plants of Hispaniola. What the abbé Raynal therefore asserts, of its being transplanted from the East Indies to America, can be true only of one species, the *indigofera tinctoria*, Linn. The manufacture of indigo, however, was not established in America till some time after the discovery of that country; and on the plant which produces it being recognized by the Portuguese in Brazil as identical with that from which indigo was extracted in the East Indies. The use of indigo, which was a great acquisition to the art of dyeing, was not established without considerable difficulty. It was strictly prohibited in England in the reign of Elizabeth, as was also logwood, which was ordered to be burned if found in any manufactory. This prohibition was not taken off till the reign of Charles II.

In like manner the use of indigo was proscribed in Saxony, in the edict against it, which brings to one's mind the edict against the employment of antimonial emetics; it is spoken of as a highly corrosive colour. This is a striking example of the errors into which an unenlightened administration may fall, which listens to the suggestions of interested individuals. Those who dyed blue, and were accustomed to use pastel and woad, represented that indigo would destroy the sale of those two articles, which were the produce of the country. Such a reason, which would appear specious to many, even in the present day, easily produced a prohibition which would be soon eluded by paying a tribute to the industry of other nations. The prejudice against indigo was likewise communicated to France, and Colbert's instructions forbade the use of more than a certain quantity in the pastel vats.

Cochineal was another important acquisition to the art of dyeing, for which we are indebted to the first conquerors of Mexico. The Spaniards, having observed that the inhabitants of Mexico employed cochineal in painting their houses and dyeing their cotton, gave their government an account of the beauty of the colour; and Cortes, in the year 1523, was ordered to promote the increase of the valuable insect from which it is obtained. The natural colour, however, which the cochineal gives, is but a dull colour. Soon after cochineal was known in Europe, a great chemist of the name of Kuster, Kuffler, or Kepfler, found out the present process for dyeing scarlet by means of a solution of tin, and carried the secret to London in the year 1543. See COCHINEAL and SCARLET.

The ancients applied the name scarlet to the colour obtained from kermes, which was much inferior in beauty to the colour we distinguish by that appellation. We probably know how to employ the kermes to greater advantage than they did, since we possess a pure alum which disposes the stuff to receive a more beautiful and durable colour; yet our dyers have almost entirely discontinued the use of it, because they can obtain from cochineal a colour beyond all comparison more beautiful. The supposition, that the colour

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colour which we obtain from kermes is preferable to that obtained by the ancients, is supported by the testimony of Pliny, who insinuates that it was not a durable colour; now the colour we give by means of kermes to wool prepared with alum, is exceedingly durable. The discovery of scarlet may be considered as the most important era in the art of dyeing, as it introduced to our knowledge the solution of tin, since so variously and happily applied. A Flemish painter, called Gluck, got possession of this secret, and communicated it to Gobelin. The knowledge of the process afterwards spread throughout all Europe. Gluck travelled into the East, where there were still some remains of Grecian industry, and afterwards settled in Flanders, where he spent a long and prosperous life. According to Mr. Francheville, this man, who had been so useful to his country, died about the year 1550.

For a long time Italy, and especially Venice, possessed the art of dyeing almost exclusively; a circumstance which contributed to the prosperity of their manufactures and commerce: by degrees it was introduced into France. Giles Gobelin, to whom the process for making the true scarlet had been communicated, established a manufactory in the place which still bears his name; and this undertaking was deemed so rash, that it was termed *Gobelin's folly*.

The attention of the Royal Society appears to have been early directed to the improvement of the art of dyeing. At a meeting of that learned body on the 30th of April, 1662, Mr. Hook was desired to translate into English, a work on dyeing, which appears to have been that already mentioned under the title of *Plictho*. On the same day also, sir William Petty, one of its earliest and most active members, in consequence of a previous request from the society, brought in "An Apparatus to the History of the common practices of Dyers," which was afterwards printed in "Dr. Spratt's History of the Royal Society," and seems to have been the first work published in the English language on the processes and operations of dyeing. Nearly two years afterwards Mr. Boyle presented to the society his "Experiments and Considerations touching Colours." And on the 10th of August, 1664, it was ordered by the society, "that the way of *fixing colours* should be recommended to Mr. Howard, Mr. Boyle, and Dr. Merritt." These, and especially the two first, were amongst the most distinguished members of the society; but it does not appear that any thing deserving of notice was done in consequence of this recommendation. However, at a meeting of the society on the 11th of November, 1669, that very ingenious and useful member, Mr. Hook, produced a piece of calico stained after the way contrived by himself, which he was desired to prosecute in other colours besides those that appeared in this piece; and accordingly on the 9th of the following month, Mr. Hook produced another specimen of staining with yellow, red, green, blue, and purple colours, which he said would endure washing with warm water and soap. But from this time it does not appear that any thing considerable was done for nearly the space of a century by men of science in this country towards the improvement of the arts of dyeing and calico printing.

In France, however, the minister Colbert, anxious to extend the commerce and manufactures of his country, which had languished during the stormy administrations of Richlieu and Mazarin, turned his attention particularly to the art of dyeing. He invited the most skilful artists, rewarded their talents, and established many manufactories; and it is curious to remark, that those of Vaubois and Sedan were called, in the letters patent which were granted them, manufacturers of fine cloth after the Dutch and

English fashion. In 1672, he published a Table of Instructions for Dyeing, under the title of "General Instructions for dyeing Wool and woollen Manufactures of all Colours, and for the Culture of the Drugs or Ingredients employed in them." This, however, was not intended merely to diffuse information, but as a legislative act, to controul the dyers in their operations. This work merits attention; we shall first notice the reason which he gives for considering the subject as one of great importance.

"If," says Colbert, "the manufactures of silk, wool, and thread are to be reckoned amongst those which most contribute to the support of commerce, dyeing, which gives them that striking variety of colour by which they resemble what is most beautiful in nature, may be considered as the soul of them, without which the body could scarcely exist. Wool and silk, the natural colour of which rather indicates the rudeness of former ages, than the genius and improvement of the present, would be in no great request if the art of dyeing did not furnish attractions which recommend them even to the most barbarous nations. All visible objects are distinguished and recommended by colours, but for the purposes of commerce it is not only necessary that they should be beautiful, but that they should be good, and that their duration should equal that of the materials they adorn."— But Colbert, though he instituted many useful regulations for the instruction of the farmer and the artist, imposed a system of prohibition and restraint so excessive, as almost to bar all future improvement. He divided the dyers into two classes, to one of which were confined the colours deemed durable and fixed, whilst the other class was allowed only to meddle with those which were considered fugitive. In the dyeing of black cloth he insisted that the operation should be begun by the dyers in grain, or those who gave the durable colour, and finished by those who produced the false one. Each was confined to a certain number of ingredients, and neither were suffered to have Brazil wood, and various other articles. The bad effects of this prohibition were moderated by the facility of eluding it, and by the rewards bestowed on those whose experiments promoted the progress of the art, and whose discoveries were afterwards to be published, and to modify the existing regulations.

French industry lost its pre-eminence by the criminal revocation of the edict of Nantz, which carried desolation into her manufactories; and dispersed her workmen, and the knowledge of her arts, throughout all Europe.

Since that time the department of administration, charged with the superintendance of the arts and manufactures, has constantly sought to repair those errors, and to encourage industry and exertion by the diffusion of knowledge, which, under wise laws, is the most efficacious means that can be employed.

Dufay, Hellot, Macquer, and Berthollet, have been successively charged with the care of improving the art of dyeing; and to their labours all Europe is indebted for most valuable acquisitions.

Dufay amended, or rather superseded, the "Instructions, &c." of Colbert, by the publication of a new one, under the administration of M. d'Orry, in 1739. He appears to have been the first who entertained just, though incomplete, ideas of the true nature of colouring substances, and the cause of their adhesion to stuffs when dyed. In his "Observations physiques sur le melange de quelques couleurs dans le tincture," Mem. de l'Academ. 1737, he observes, that colouring particles are naturally disposed to adhere, more or less firmly, to the filaments which receive them; and he remarks very justly, that without this disposition

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stuffs would never assume any colour but that of the bath, and would always divide the colouring particles equally with it; whereas the liquor of the bath sometimes becomes as limpid as water, giving out all the colouring matter to the stuff, "which seems to indicate," says he, "that the ingredients have less attraction for the water than for the particles of the wool." He also noticed, the difference in the degree of attraction which different substances, as wool and cotton, exert on the same colouring matters, and which he found so great, that a skain of each having been in an equal degree subjected to the operation for dyeing scarlet, the woollen yarn was found to be fully and permanently dyed, while the cotton retained all its former whiteness. Yet these facts, important as they were, to the foundation of a theory of the art of dyeing, were unproductive in his hands; for though satisfied with the explanation they offered of many phenomena, yet they left, says he, so much to be wished for, that he would relinquish it readily, if a more probable one could be found. He appears to have had no idea of the other and more important cause of the permanency of colours, that which arises from the use of mordants, or the interposition of a suitable basis, possessing a particular attraction both for the colouring matter and dyed substance, and acting as a bond of union between them. He examined, with great sagacity, certain processes, and established the surest methods that could at that time be employed for determining the goodness of a colour, and this he did in an easy and familiar manner. His labours, on the whole, entitle him to the gratitude of posterity, and he may justly lay claim to the merit of having first discovered and enunciated the facts, and of having drawn some partial conclusions from which the true theory of dyeing was some years afterwards clearly and luminously deduced.

He was succeeded by Hellot, to whom we are indebted for one of the best practical treatises on the art of dyeing wool and woollen cloths now extant. This work is valuable for the accuracy with which the numerous processes are described: without profiting however by the hints thrown out by his predecessors, he suffered himself to be misled by a vague and groundless hypothesis, on the cause of the adhesion of the colouring particles to the substance dyed, the action of mordants, and the difference between the true or durable, and false or fading dyes. Of his theoretical ideas, and the principles he laid down, some judgment may be formed from the following passage taken from his work. "I believe it may be laid down as a general principle in the art of which I am now treating, that all the invisible mechanism of dyeing consists in dilating the pores of the body to be dyed, in depositing in them particles of foreign matter, and retaining them there by a kind of covering not liable to be affected by water, rain, or the rays of the sun; in choosing colouring particles of such a degree of fineness as to be rendered sufficiently fixed in the pores of the stuff opened by the heat of boiling water, and again constricted by cold, and also coated by the kind of varnish which the salts, employed in its preparation, had left in those pores; whence it follows that the pores of the fibres of the wool which has been wrought, or is to be wrought into cloth, should be cleaned, enlarged, coated over, and then constricted, so that the colouring particles may be retained in them nearly in the same manner as the diamond is retained in the collet of a ring." He fancied that he could discern in every dyeing process some means by which sulphate of pot-ash, then called vitriolated tartar, might be formed; and this neutral salt not being readily soluble by cold water, nor air, nor light, he conceived the whole art of dyeing to consist in first dilating the pores of the substance

to be dyed, so as to procure a copious admission of colouring matter, divided by a suitable preparation into atoms, and then wedging or fastening these atoms within the pores of the dyed substance, by the small particles or crystals of this difficultly soluble salt. Upon this mechanical hypothesis, he supposed that alum became useful in dyeing, not by the pure clay or alumine which it contains, but by furnishing sulphuric or vitriolic acid, to assist in forming the sulphate of pot-ash, which was to perform the important function of wedging or fastening the colouring atoms. But though nothing could be more groundless than such a theory, the learned in all countries appear to have been satisfied with it for a considerable length of time, it being always less troublesome to believe than to make experiments.—Macquer followed next. He has given us an exact description of the processes employed in dyeing silk, and his practical treatise, published in 1763, is held in deserved estimation. He has made us acquainted with the combinations of the colouring principle of Prussian blue; he has endeavoured to make an application of it to the art of dyeing, and has given us a process for communicating the most brilliant colour to silk, by means of cochineal. Macquer intended to have published a general treatise on the art of dyeing, the prospectus of which he issued in the year 1781, but the indisposition which so long preceded his death, prevented his engaging in it, and he died in 1784, before he had been able to carry into effect any part of his plan. It is surprising that Macquer, who was an excellent chemist, and amongst the first who entertained correct ideas of the nature of chemical affinity should have been seduced by the hypothesis of Hellot. "I should now," says he in his treatise on dyeing silk, "explain the action of mordants, and unfold the causes of durable and fading dyes; but this subject has been treated with such sagacity by Mr. Hellot, that I shall refer the reader to him." Bergmann seems to have been the first who referred the phenomena of dyeing entirely to chemical principles. Having dyed some wool and silk in a dilute solution of indigo in sulphuric acid, he explains the effects he observed in the operation, by attributing them to the precipitation occasioned by the blue particles having a stronger attraction for the particles of the wool and silk than for those of the acidulated water: he remarks, that this attraction of the wool is so strong as to deprive the liquor entirely of the colouring particles, but that the weaker attraction of the silk can only diminish the proportion of those particles in the bath; and he shews that both the durability of the colour, and the degree of intensity it is capable of acquiring, depend on these different attractions. This is the true light in which the phenomena of dyeing, which are purely chemical, should be considered. Dufay had advanced thus far, but overlooked the importance of his own simple truths, in the search after more recondite and complicated causes. But the peculiar action of mordants was still unexplained, except on the wild hypothesis of Hellot, till our countryman Mr. Keir, the ingenious translator of Macquer's Chemical Dictionary, suggested, "that in dyeing, the earth of alum was precipitated, and in this form attached to the material prepared or dyed." Macquer soon after adopted the opinions of Bergmann and Keir, and in the second edition of his dictionary, under the article *Dyeing*, published in 1778, treated the subject in a more extended manner, and proved that he had formed just conceptions of the nature and uses of alum, and of different metallic solutions, as mordants in dyeing. Berthollet succeeded next to the place of trust which had been successively held by Dufay, Hellot, and Macquer, a post which he has held, and still holds, with distinguished honour to himself, and advantage

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advantage to his country. In a series of memoirs, inserted in the Transactions of the academy, the Annales de Chimie, and Journal de Physique, he has examined various points of chemical theory connected with the art of dyeing, and almost all his labours have since been directed to this object. In 1791, he published his elements of the art of dyeing in 2 vols. 8vo. a work which has contributed more to the progress of true theory and the general improvement of the art, than any other treatise whatever. This work has been translated into English by Dr. Hamilton, and a second edition of the original, with considerable additions, appeared in 1803. Every thing which a liberal and enlightened government could do for the encouragement and progress of the art, has been done in France, and this solicitude has been crowned with the success it merited. Mr. Anderson attributes the superiority which certain articles of French manufacture maintain over those of other nations, who possess the most beautiful wool, to the perfection of their dyes; and Mr. Home is of opinion, that the French are indebted to the academy of sciences for their superiority in many of the arts, and especially that of dyeing. Perhaps another cause of the alleged superiority of the French over other nations in the art of dyeing, may be discovered in the peculiar nature of their manufactures. Silk, of all other substances, seems best adapted to the display of fine and brilliant dyes, and it constitutes, in all its various forms, a large portion of the manufactures of France. We may look, therefore, to the dye-houses of Lyons, as well as to the academy of sciences, for the cause of that superiority which is now gradually declining. We have already spoken of our countryman Mr. Keir, as the first who suggested the true theory of mordants, which was afterwards extended and improved by Macquer. The worthy president of the literary and philosophical society of Manchester, Mr. Henry, some time after, read a paper to the society, since published in the 3d volume of their Memoirs, "On the nature of wool, silk, and cotton, as objects of the art of dyeing; on the various preparations and mordants requisite for these different substances, and on the nature and properties of colouring matter." This paper, which is replete with new and ingenious views of the nature and objects of dyeing, may be considered as amongst the first attempts in this country to reduce to system and theory the subject of which it treats: Mr. Henry, in these Memoirs, first pointed out the peculiar nature of the aluminous mordant of the calico printers; he shewed that by double decomposition an acetite of alumine was formed, and explained the cause of its superiority over the sulphate of alumine, which consists in the substitution of a volatile vegetable acid in lieu of the sulphuric.

In the year 1794, Dr. Bancroft published his "Experimental Researches concerning the philosophy of permanent colours, and the best means of producing them by dyeing, calico printing, &c." which may be considered as the first, and indeed only original work on the subject which this country has produced. This work, as the title indicates, is rather an experimental than practical treatise: it contains, however, much valuable information, which the practical dyer may apply in many cases with considerable advantage, and is also useful as containing a history of all the different substances of which it treats, and an account of the labours of Macquer, Dufay, Hellot, Berthollet, and others, in this field of science. It is to be regretted, that the work is still imperfect, the first volume only having yet appeared. The second, which was intended to comprehend all the remaining adjective colours and colouring matters, not treated of in the first, particularly those very interesting ones which

are derived from the tribe of madders, can hardly, after an interval of fifteen years, be looked for with confidence.

Dr. Bancroft first pointed out the true action of tartar in the process for dyeing scarlet, and clearly proved that the nitro-muriate of tin, or any solution of tin alone, produced a crimson only; and that the addition of tartar produced a scarlet, by the conversion of a portion of the crimson colouring matter of the cochineal, to a pure yellow. On this observation he founded an improvement in the scarlet dye, which consisted in communicating to the cloth, by means of quercitron bark, and any suitable mordant, such a shade of yellow as would produce, with the crimson of the cochineal, a true scarlet. By this process he expected to save all that cochineal which he conceived to be expended in the production of the yellow; the trials on the large scale, however, we are informed by Dr. Bancroft, did not justify the expectations he had formed, of the importance of the process.

A more important and lasting service, however, he has rendered to the art of dyeing, by the introduction of the quercitron bark, a drug which is now become of such general and acknowledged utility, as to supersede almost every other kind of yellow colouring matter whatever. For the history of this substance, and other particulars respecting its introduction, we must refer to the article itself, under the head QUERCITRON BARK.

Though we have to record no brilliant discoveries or improvements in the practice of dyeing, within these few years, yet the art has continued progressively to improve, the different processes have been simplified and amended; and what some years ago was considered a matter of chance and uncertainty, is now reduced to fixed principles.

The dyeing of Turkey red is now fully understood and practised in this country, with a success at least equal to that of any other. The process has, with some modifications, been applied lately to the dyeing of piece goods, and the red thus produced surpasses in beauty and durability, all other colours which it is possible to fix on cotton. But it is not our intention here to enter into a history of all the minor improvements that have been made in the art of dyeing; they will be treated of at large, during the progress of the work, under their respective heads.

DYEING, *the Laws relating to*, are as follow: Dyers shall dye both the cloth and the list, or forfeit it. 1 R. III. cap. 4. No dyer may dye any cloth with archil, or with brazil; to make a false colour in cloth or wool, &c. on pain of twenty shillings. Stat. 3 & 4 Edw. VI. cap. 2. Dyers are to fix a seal of lead to cloths, with the letter M, to shew that they are well maddered, &c. or forfeit three shillings and fourpence; and not to use log wood in dyeing on pain of forfeiting twenty pounds. Stat. 23 Eliz. cap. 9. And penalties are inflicted on dyers, who dye any cloths deceitfully, and not being dyed throughout with woad, indigo, and madder; also marks shall be put to the cloth dyed, &c. Dyers in London are subject to the inspection of the Dyers' company, who may appoint searchers; and out of their limits, justices of peace in sessions to appoint them: opposing the searchers incurs ten pounds penalty, by stat. 13 Geo. I. c. 24.

DYEING, in a more extensive sense, is applied to all kinds of colourings given to bodies of any sort.

In which sense, dyeing amounts to the same with *coloration*; and includes staining, painting, gilding, marbling, printing, &c. The Chinese are said to practise the dyeing of tea with catechu, which gives the worst sorts of green tea leaf the colour, and its infusion the tincture of bohea. Short. Dissert. on Tea, pref. p. 15. See TEA and CATECHU.

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The sorts of dyeing now commonly used in vulgar trades, are. 1. Whitening of wax, and several sorts of linen, and cotton cloths, by the sun, air, and reciprocal effusions of water. See BLEACHING. 2. Staining of wood and leather by lime, salt, and liquors, as in staves, canes, marble, leathers, marquetry, &c. 3. Marbling of paper by tempering the colours with ox gall, and applying them upon a stiff-gummed liquor. See PAPER. 4. Colouring, or rather discolouring silks, tiffanies, &c. by brimstone. 5. Colouring several iron and copper works into black with oil. 6. Giving leather a gold colour, or rather dyeing silver-leaves like gold, by varnishes; and in other cases by urine and sulphur. 7. Staining of marble and alabafter, with heat, and coloured oils. 8. Tinging silver into brads with brimstone or urine. 9. Colouring the barrels and locks of guns blue and purple with the temper of small-coal heat. 10. Colouring glass crystals, and earthen-ware with the rusts and solutions of metals. See POTTERY, &c. 11. Colouring live hair, as in Poland, both horse and man's hair; and also of furs. 12. Enamelling and annealing. See ENAMELLING. 13. Application of colours, as in the printing of books and pictures; and the making of playing cards, jappanning, &c. See PRINTING, CARDS, and JAPANING. 14. Gilding and tinning with mercury, block tin, and sal ammoniac. See GILDING and TINNING. 15. Colouring metals, as copper with calamine into brads, and with zinc or salt-petre into false gold, or into false silver with arsenic. See CALAMINE, BRASS, ZINC, ARSENIC, &c. 16. Making painters' colours, by preparing of earth, chalk, and slates, as in umber, oker, Cologn earth, &c. out of the calces of lead, as cerufs and minium; by sublimes of mercury and brimstone, as in vermilion; by tinging of white earths variously, as in verditer, and some of the lakes; by concrete juices or fæculæ, as in indigo, pinks, sap-green, and lakes: and by rusts, as in verdigris, &c. See CERUSS, MINIMUM, VERMILLION, INDIGO, &c. 17. The applying of these colours by the adhesion of ox-gall, as in the marbled paper aforesaid; or by gum-water, as in limning: or clammy drying oils, as the oils of linseed, nuts, spike, turpentine, &c. See PAINTING, LIMNING, &c. 18. Watering of tabbies. See WATERING, CALENDER, TABBY, &c. Petty. Appar. Hist. of Dyeing, ap Sprat.

Glass dyed is the common matter of artificial jewels: the tinctures are given with zaffer, manganese, feretto, crocus martis, &c. The processes are described at length in Antonio Neri, de Re Vitario, lib. i. cap. 12, 13, 14, seq. See GLASS, GEM, &c.

The Peruvian women, when grown old, dye their grey hairs black by a very untoward operation, viz. holding the head some hours with the hair sopped in a boiling tincture of the root of a tree called *cuchau*, by the Spaniards *maquey*.

DYEING of Hats, is done by boiling a hundred pounds of logwood, twelve pounds of gum, and six pounds of galls, in a proper quantity of water for some hours; after which about six pounds of verdigris, and ten pounds of green vitriol are added, and the liquor kept simmering, or of a heat a little below boiling. Ten or twelve dozen of hats are immediately put in, each on its block, and kept down by cross bars for about an hour and an half; they are then taken out and aired, and the same number of others put in their room; the two sets of hats are then dipped and aired alternately, eight times each; the liquor being refreshed each time with more of the ingredients, but in less quantity than at first. This process affords a very good black on woollen and silk stuffs as well as on hats. Com. Phil. Tech. p. 428. See HAT.

DYEING, or staining of wood, for inlaying, veneering, &c.

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Red is done by boiling the wood in water and alum; then taking it out, adding brazil to the liquor; and giving the wood another boil in it. *Black*, by brushing it over with logwood boiled in vinegar, hot; then washing it over with a decoction of galls and copperas, till it be of the hue required. Any other colour may be given by squeezing out the moisture of horse-dung through a sieve, mixing it with dissolved rock alum, and gum-arabic; and to the whole adding green, blue, or any other colour designed. After standing two or three days, pear-tree, or other wood, cut to the thickness of half a crown, is put into the liquor boiling hot, and suffered to remain till it be sufficiently coloured. Park. Treat. of Japan. chap. xxvii. p. 82.

DYEING of bone, horn, or ivory. *Black* is performed by steeping brads in aqua fortis till it be turned green: with this the bone, &c. is to be washed once or twice; and then put in a decoction of logwood and water, warm. *Green* is begun by boiling the bone, &c. in alum-water; then with verdigris, sal ammoniac, and white wine vinegar; keeping it hot therein till sufficiently green. *Red*, is begun by boiling it in alum-water, and finished by decoction in a liquor compounded of quicklime steeped in rain-water, strained, and to every pint an ounce of brazil wood added: the bone, &c. to be boiled therein till sufficiently red. Other methods are given by Salmon. And from him by Houghton. Park. lib. cit. p. 83. Salm. Polygraph. hb. iii. cap. 35. p. 275. Hought. Collect. N^o 138. tom. i. p. 361. See BONES, HORN, IVORY, &c. The refuse of the Bow dye, given to hogs to feed on, is said to tinge their very bones red.