

Action of Stannic Salts upon Animal Matter.—When silk is steeped in a solution of stannic chloride and then thoroughly washed in order to remove the excess of uncombined salt it is found to have increased in weight and to have absorbed a quantity of stannic oxide proportioned to the concentration of the solution and the length of immersion. If the silk is then passed into boiling suds, washed and replunged in the bath it fixes a new quantity of tin and by repeating these operations its primitive weight may be doubled. This furnishes a ready method of loading silk with a colorless oxide, in order to receive a permanent dye of any hue that may be desired. The weight of silk which has been thus loaded with stannic oxide may be increased still more by putting it in a solution of any tannic material. This cannot be done, however, where delicate shades are required, because the impurities of the tannin produce a muddy tint. Skins which are treated with solutions of bichloride may be tanned in a very short time.—*Bull. de la Soc. Indust.* C.

Grafting Bones.—The experiments of Ollier, in transplanting bones upon rabbits have been received with considerable doubt by Wolf and others. W. MacEwen reports the case of a patient who had necrosis of the humerus which had destroyed considerable portions of the periosteum. He had occasion to operate upon several subjects with anterior curvatures of the tibia from whom he removed wedge-shaped portions of bone in order to straighten the bent limbs. These portions, with their periostium, were divided into numerous small fragments which were immediately placed in a channel prepared to receive them in the diseased arm. These small portions gradually united, adhering to the summit of the humerus on one side and to the condyles on the other, and finally forming a solid shaft about half an inch shorter than the humerus of the opposite arm. In this way a useless arm was rendered perfectly serviceable. The transplanted portions were taken from six different limbs, with their periosteum and their marrow, and placed in the arm of a young lad, in an inter-muscular space which was freshly opened by the scalpel in order to receive them. The grafts not only remained entirely in the tissues, but they formed a perfect union with one another, making in all four and a half inches of bony transplanting in which formed a new humerus that can be used as well as that of the other arm.—*Comptes Rendus.* C.