MURAL FOUNTAIN IN MAJOLICA.

From the Design of C. LACHER by FR. WUDIA, Graz.

GROUND of structural parts light yellow, shade of old ivory, ornament light and dark green, violet and red. Niche, ground of frieze, shell of acroterial termination light and dark blue, framing ornament of the same, ornament flanking shafts of columns and basin yellow, figure subject light and dark yellow, brown, and violet. Niche semicircular and let into the wall, the basin below projecting. The cock in form of a rosette in center of ornament on pedestal of column.—*The Workshop.*

become intoxicated, stagger, and are unsteady in all their movements; act strangely and stupidly, losing their good 'horse sense' or common brute sagacity, in short, acting like fools, hence the Mexican name *Loco*." The animals gradually get thinner and die, and death often supervenes suddenly. What is most remarkable, Dr. Kellogg says, with this and the Colorado loco (*Astragalus Lambertii*) is the permanence of the impression, often lasting many months, or even for years, half demented, until at length they die. The allied plant—*Tephrosia*—or "Devil's shoe string" of the South, although it stupefies and intoxicates, yet the impression soon wears off. We are often told by the advocates

to sit, set her with ducks' eggs, and let her hatch and care for the brood till they are able to take care of themselves. A hen will care for a brood of ducklings far better, ordinarily, than will an old duck. If the ducks think they have laid enough eggs, and show unmistakable signs of wanting to sit, put them into a convenient coop, put one of your most vigorous young drakes with them, and they will soon be willing to shell out eggs again, which should be set under hens as fast as convenient, so as to bring as many out at a time as possible, thereby lessening the cost of attending to them. A shallow tub, kept well filled with water, will afford plenty of bathing room for the ducklings until they are

SUGGESTIONS IN DECORATIVE ART.—MURAL FOUNTAIN IN MAJOLICA.—DESIGN OF C. LACHER, BY FR. WUDIA, GRAZ.

"LOCO" POISONS OF THE WEST.

IN volume six of the "Proceedings of the California Academy of Sciences," Dr. A. Kellogg gives a short account of certain vegetable poisons that have wrought great havoc with the herds of horses, cattle, and sheep in California and Colorado. Thousands of animals have been destroyed by plant poisoning. The noxious plants are leguminous—one of them, *Astragalus Menziesii*, which bears the popular names of "rattle weed," "pompous pea," "pop pea," etc., is pretty generally distributed throughout the State of California. It appears that horses and cattle do not like it at first, and will shun it so long as the pasturage remains good, but when other herbage is scarce, and hunger impels them, they will eat it; and in course of time they become excessively fond of this plant, which curiously enough produces a sort of intoxication. "After eating it," says the author, "horses

of temperance that man alone indulges in the debasing vice of drunkenness, but here appears to be a clear case against animals. Dr. Kellogg states that the brutes get to liking the plants more and more, being apparently as much infatuated as the drunkard for his bottle.

RAISING DUCKS.

AGAIN must we call the attention of breeders to the profit in ducks, when properly cared for, and when there are facilities at hand for breeding them properly. Many a farmer has realized far more from breeding ducks than he would obtain from his chickens, for they are very hardy, and lay remarkably well during some parts of the season. As soon as they commence to lay, the eggs should be carefully gathered and put away; as soon as a hen (not a duck) wants

two or three months old, and perhaps longer.—*Poultry World.*

ALFALFA.

IN Peru, the Alfalfa, or Chilian clover, is sown in beds, very level, from 25 to 40 yards square, with borders or embankments of a yard in width, to contain the water when irrigated, which is only a few days before cutting. The cutting is done with a coarse sickle, and very close to the ground, so that afterward, when the weeds have been pulled and the square raked clean, the soil appears quite bare. The grass grows very thickly and strong, three and often four feet high. It will not bear much water, an abundant irrigation or inundation rotting the tap-roots and causing the speedy death of the plants.