

Lincrusta.—Frederick Walton, the inventor of Linoleum, has introduced a new article, under the above name, for the purposes of plastic decoration. It consists of a compressed mass of cellulose, paper, cork, etc., thoroughly impregnated with oxidized linseed oil and resin. The mass is at first doughy, so that it can be spread or pressed in thin or thick sheets or moulds. It becomes gradually leathery, pliable, elastic, tough, not affected by water or by the influences of the weather, and is a bad conductor of heat. It is much cheaper than pressed leather or its papier maché imitations, and can receive much deeper, sharper and more lasting impressions. Lincrusta tapestries, with decorations in imitation of ivory, gold, silver, bronze, etc., can be furnished at about one-fifteenth the price of leather.—*Der Techniker*.

Electric Currents Produced by Distant Lightning.—In 1826 M. D. Colladon published an account of disturbances of his galvanometer by a storm, which was so far from Paris that no clouds were visible within 30 degrees from the zenith. Peccet, in his *Traité de Physique*, gives a note upon Colladon's observations in which he says: "During a storm the needle of the galvanometer is in continual motion; each flash is immediately followed, sometimes even preceded, by a sudden change in the direction of the deviation, or by a violent increase. In some cases the deviation passes instantly from the positive to the negative maximum, or inversely; these effects continue even when the flashes are two or three leagues off, provided the air is very damp and the sky covered with clouds." In 1879 M. Renè Thury, son of a professor in the University of Geneva, stretched a copper wire horizontally between two houses, at the height of the roofs and communicating with the earth by means of water pipes. Two telephones were connected with the wire, one of which had a resistance of 4·5 ohms, the other of 2·5 ohms. In every thunder storm the flashes of lightning have always been accompanied by a very characteristic crackling in the telephones. This noise is heard at the same instant that the flash is seen, whatever may be its distance, and results, consequently, from the induction of the distant discharge upon the wire. Every flash which is visible to the eye is heard in the telephone, even when it is so distant that there is no audible thunder.—*Comptes Rendus*. C.