

Blue with a faint pink.  
 Blue with a yellow blotch.  
 Blue with faint (probably faded) pink, yellow, and white spots.  
 Pink with fine veins of blue.  
 Blue alone in a large sweeping swirl.  
 Blue in formation, like modern stained Spanish morocco.

The most noticeable feature about these early marbles is that the colours used are all stains and not surface colours. The intention does not seem to have been that both sides of the paper should be alike, for there is distinctly a right and wrong side, the one being glazed and the other dull; again, the stains are not all equally strong, so that some of the colours have barely gone through, and the pattern on one side does not correspond with the other. The earliest are undoubtedly the faint clouded or shadowed marbles and a faint veined variety as if produced by spirit flying over the water, next the swirl variety, and both preceded the comb patterns, which did not begin till somewhere about 1610.

With these few hints at the probable origin of the art we must close this introduction, reserving to another day a more detailed examination into the subject, and commence a series of practical papers on the art as now in use.

[To be continued.]

## Our Prize Competitions.

THE prize we offered in the May number for the most practical suggestion as to "How to permanently augment the annual income of the Bookbinders' Pension and Asylum Society," not to exceed five hundred words, has brought forth but one response. We have submitted that to a committee appointed by the Pension Society, and their decision is that the paper sent in "*is not of sufficient merit to warrant the prize being awarded to it.*" The committee further suggest "that the offer shall remain open for another month, and that prominence be given to it."

### TO LONDON MEN ESPECIALLY.

We adopt the suggestion of the Pension Society jurors; the twenty shillings is still offered for a practical suggestion in accordance with the terms published in our May number, and we will wait until August 31st for answers. The award will be made in the September issue.

DR. JOHNSON finished his dictionary on April 15th, 1755, and Andrew Millar thus acknowledged the receipt of the final pages: "Andrew Millar sends his compliments to Mr. Samuel Johnson with the money for the last sheet of the copy of the 'Dictionary,' and thanks God he has done with him." Dr. Johnson replied: "Samuel Johnson returns his compliments to Mr. Andrew Millar, and is very glad to find (as he does by this sheet) that Andrew Millar has the grace to thank God for anything."

## An Armenian Monastic Bindery.



PERHAPS one of the most interesting book-binding shops in the world is that in the Armenian monastery at the island of San Lazzaro, near Venice. This monastery is the head-quarters of the Armenians of Europe, and in addition to its religious work does a great deal of work of a business character—in fact, it prints and binds the greater number of books in the Armenian tongue that are published on the Continent. It is delightfully situated on a lovely little island some two miles from Venice. It has beautiful gardens full of the most gorgeous flowers, and a terrace from which may be obtained a view of the wonderful city that has been well called "The Queen of the Adriatic," with the Tyrolean Alps for a background. It has a chapel with an altar that is a dream of sacred beauty, and contains cells for some eighty monks. They have a strange old-world look, with their sandals and shaven crowns, as they take the visitor round and in broken—very broken—English, tell him about their monastery and its doings. But they are very wide awake indeed if you touch them on the business side. They know all about printing and bookbinding, keeping some twenty workmen employed in their workshops, Italian workmen chiefly, who do the whole of the work of the shop—folding, sewing, and binding, as no women are permitted at the monastery except as visitors, and then they are restricted to certain parts. Their printing has a great reputation in Italy, one of the treasures of their office being a book of devotions printed in thirty-three languages. Their binding room is quite up to date in machinery, finishing tools, and the like, though the visitor is a little surprised at his guide pointing out to him with pride a new cutting machine bearing a name in the Farringdon-road. Lord Byron is their hero, and they have many relics of him kept from the time of his sojourn with them in 1816. Their libraries are magnificent rooms, containing some thirty thousand volumes, many of them rare and precious editions, and a number of beautiful manuscripts. The place is quite unique, and like no other place in the world, and it is not to be wondered at that visitors to Venice rarely miss the monastery of San Lazzaro.

THE principal bibliophiles in Germany in the first half of the sixteenth century were the wealthy Fuggers, of Augsburg, of whom Charles V. used to say when he saw any display of magnificence, "I have a burgess at Augsburg who can do better than that." It was commonly believed that these merchants had discovered the philosopher's stone, so much did all their business dealings bring in gold.

THE following is the title of an old theological work: "A Few Notices on Predestination and Election, compos'd for the Edification of a Gentleman, friend to the Author, publish'd to prevent Calumny, again publish'd to stop its mouth, and now a third time publish'd because its mouth will not be stopp'd."