

Glue.

A CORRESPONDENT to our smart American contemporary gives the following interesting particulars concerning the various glues in use by bookbinders:—

Granulated Glue.—This brand has its good and bad qualities. It is often eulogized by glue men for its handiness in cooking up quickly. This is where an error in judgment is made, from the fact that many workmen, when having such a glue at their command, would too frequently replenish their glue pots direct from the barrel, and thus be the means of introducing a false practice. Independent of this it is possible for the purchaser to be imposed upon by an admixture of various other grades of glue, but it is usually guaranteed to be otherwise. Glue requires peculiar treatment to secure the best results. It should always be allowed to take up water previous to the application of heat, and when moderately cooked should be laid aside for a day. This method of treating glue has been in vogue for many decades in the Old World and is the very best. At the first boiling it is turned into shallow earthen dishes, and, after cooling, it is free to the workmen to help themselves by slicing off such quantities as they may require. This arrangement, if it were for no other purpose than to prevent decomposition after soaking, may be considered as being of the highest value; but it does more than this, for it is always ready for the workman and in the very best condition to secure strength and permanent satisfaction. The least that should be expected from everyone using glue is that it shall be so arranged after absorbing water that every fresh supply shall be attended to early enough before quitting time, so that it may be sufficiently heated and dissolved to gelatinize preparatory to its use on the following morning.

Noodle Glue.—This title probably originated from an apparent similitude in the treatment of dough in its preparation for one of our well-known culinary relishes. A special form of glue, however, cannot be expected to influence its quality except in the process of curing the stock, a feature which is of no small importance. The drying surface of this make is at least double that of the sheet glues, and therefore a corresponding gain is made toward purity of manufacture, for the quick formation of a film in curing glue lessens the danger of its becoming decomposed. Another consideration is that it is readily prepared for the glue pot, and therefore can be recommended when built up with such a quality of stock as the binder needs.

Sinew Glue.—This is about equal to the best hide stock, but is sometimes mixed with inferior grades to give them elasticity and strength. Bone and sinew stock in equal proportions make a fair glue, but enough has been said to caution binders against experimenting with such glues as are not suitable to the business. A true sinew glue, however, is often highly lauded by the salesman as one of the best grades.

Bleached Glue.—Here is a contrast with the opaque, and it may be sufficiently attractive to induce some buyers to be led astray. Bleached glue is the work of acids which remove an element of colour and strength which belongs to glue, and its tenacity is thus proportionately and detrimentally acted upon.

Opaque Glue.—This is a somewhat novel appellation for glue, but in reality it is nothing more than a glue adulterated with colouring. Its opacity is mostly caused by the free use

