

COOLEY'S CYCLOPÆDIA OF PRACTICAL RECEIPTS

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WRITING executed in the ordinary tanno-gallic ink, and which has been rendered illegible by age, may be restored by carefully moistening it, by means of a feather, with an *infusion of galls*, or a *solution of prussiate of potash* slightly acidulated with *hydrochloric acid*, observing so to apply the liquid as to prevent the ink spreading.

WRITING FLUIDS. A term commonly applied, of late years, to easy-flowing inks adapted for metallic pens, in contradistinction to the old tanno-gallic compounds at one time exclusively employed for writing.

Prep. 1. Dissolve *pure basic* or *soluble Prussian blue* in *pure distilled water*, and dilute the resulting solution with *pure water* until the desired shade of colour is obtained. Very permanent and beautiful. It is not affected by the addition of alcohol, but is immediately precipitated by saline matter. The precipitate, however, still possesses the property of dissolving in *pure water*.

2. From the *soluble ferrocyanide of potassium and iron*, dissolved in *pure water*. Resembles the last, but it is precipitated from its solution by alcohol.

3. *Powdered Prussian blue*, 1 oz.; *concentrated hydrochloric acid*, 1½ fl. oz.; mix in a matrass or glass bottle, and after 24 or 30 hours, dilute the mass with a sufficient quantity of water.

4. Dissolve *ceruleo-sulphate of potassa* or *ammonia* (or blue carmine or soluble indigo) in *hot water*, and when cold decant the clear portion. It is an intense blue, and dries nearly black; is perfectly incorrosive, and very permanent and easy flowing.

5. (Horning.) *Perchloride of iron*, 4 parts, *water*, 750 parts; dissolve, add of *cyanide of potassium*, 4 parts, dissolved in a little *water*; collect the precipitate, wash it with several effusions of *pure water*, allow it to drain until it weighs about 200 parts, then add of *oxalic acid*, 1 part; and promote solution by agitating the bottle or vessel containing it.

6. (Mohr.) *Pure Prussian blue*, 6 parts; *oxalic acid*, 1 part; triturate with a little water to a *perfectly smooth* paste, then dilute the mass with a proper quantity of soft water. The *product* resembles Stephen's "*patent-blue ink*".

7. (Rev. J. B. Reade.)—

a. A *solution* of his *soluble Prussian blue* in *distilled water*. Blue.

b. Prepared by adding to good *gall ink* a strong *solution* of his *soluble Prussian blue*. This addition "makes the ink, which was previously proof against *alkalies*, equally proof against *acids*, and forms a writing fluid, which cannot be erased from paper by any common method of fraudulent obliteration, without the destruction of the paper." This ink writes greenish blue, but afterwards turns intensely black. Stephen's "*patent ink*," which does the same, is a similar compound.

8. (Prof. Runge.) *Logwood*, in fine chips, ¼ lb.; *boiling water*, 3 pints; digest for 12 hours, then simmer the liquid down gently to 1 quart, carefully observing to avoid dust, grease, and smoke;

when cold decant the decoction, and add to it of *yellow chromate of potash*, 20 gr.; dissolve by agitation, after which it will be fit for use. Cheap and good. It resists the action of all ordinary destructive agents better than the tanno-gallic inks; it may be washed after use with a wet sponge, or steeped for twenty-four hours in water, or even tested with dilute acids, and yet preserve its original blackness. It is perfectly liquid, it scarcely thickens by age, and neither deposits a sediment, nor corrodes steel pens.

9. (Ure.) Pure *vanadate of ammonia* decomposed with *infusion of galls*. It is of a perfectly black hue, flows freely from the pen, is rendered blue by acids, is unaffected by dilute alkaline solutions, and resists the action of chlorine.

Obs. The preceding formulæ, under proper management, produce excellent products, all of which are extremely moble[sic], and most of them of a more or less beautiful colour. The *blue* ones, when concentrated, dry of a blue black, whilst two or three of the others, though at first pale, rapidly pass into a deep black, when exposed to the air. Care must be taken in all cases that the ingredients be pure. The Prussian blue, except when directly prepared for the purpose, should be washed in dilute hydrochloric acid before attempting its solution by means of oxalic acid. Unless these precautions are attended to, success is unlikely. A little gum may be added, if required, to prevent the fluid spreading on the paper; but in most cases the addition is no improvement. Most of the *blue fluids* may be used as *indelible ink* to mark linen, and will be found very permanent, provided the part be first moistened with *alum water*, and dried.

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