

sion after the operation. It is unnecessary to point out the advantages to be derived from its being done at a more early age, independent of those respecting the operation itself. PHIL. MAG.

*To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.*

SIR,

**T**HE following directions, peculiarly useful in this part of the country, the seat of the linen manufacture, will it is hoped, obtain a general circulation through the medium of your Magazine. Yours, &c. A. B.

REMOVAL OF INK STAINS.

The stains of ink on cloth, paper or wood, may be removed by almost all acids, but those acids are to be preferred which are least likely to injure the texture of the stained substance. The muriatic acid, diluted with five or six times its weight of water may be applied to the spot, and after a minute or two may be washed off, repeating its application as often as may be found necessary. But the vegetable acids are attended with less risk, and are equally effectual. A solution of the oxalic, citric, or tartarous acids in water, may be applied to the most delicate fabrics without any danger of injuring them, and the same solutions discharge from paper written but not printed ink. Hence they may be employed in cleaning books, which have been defaced by writing on the margin, without injuring the text.

*Iron stains.* These may be occasioned either by ink stains, which on the application of soap are changed into iron stains; or by the direct contact of rusted iron. They may be removed by diluted muriatic acid, or by any of the vegetable acids already mentioned; when suffered to remain long in cloth, they become difficult to take out, because the iron by repeated moistening with water, and exposure to the air, acquires such an addition of oxygen, as renders it insoluble in acids. The spots, however, may be discharged by applying, first, a solution of an alkaline sulphuret, which may be well washed out of the cloth, and afterwards a liquid acid. The sulphuret in this case, extracts part of the oxygen

from the iron, and renders it soluble in dilute acids.

*Fruit and wine stains* are best removed by a watery solution of the oxygenated muriatic acid; or by that of oxygenated muriate of pot-ash, or lime to which a little sulphuric acid has been added. The stained spot may be steeped in one of those solutions till it be discharged, but the solution can only be applied safely to *white* goods, because the uncombined oxygenated acid, discharges all printed and dyed colours. A convenient method of applying the oxygenized acid easily practicable by persons who have not the apparatus for saturating waters with the gas, is as follows. Put about a table spoonful of muriatic acid (spirit of salt) into a tea cup, and add to it, about a tea spoonful of powdered manganese. Then set this cup in a larger one filled with hot water, moisten the stained spot with water, and expose it to the fumes that arise from the tea cup. If the exposure be continued a sufficient length of time, the stain will disappear.

Stains on *silk*, may be removed by a watery solution of sulphurous acid, or by the fumes of burning sulphur.

Spots of *grease*, may be removed by a diluted solution of pure pot-ash, but this must be cautiously applied to prevent injury to the cloth. Stains of *white wax* which sometimes fall upon the cloaths, from wax candles, are removable by spirit of turpentine, or sulphuric ether. The marks of *white paint* may also be discharged by the last mentioned agents.

*To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.*

SIR,

**I**N answer to your correspondent the *Linendrapcr*, I have to inform him that I believe, as yet no colour has been found capable of withstanding the effects of the oxymuriated acid, except such as are liable to be extracted by the vegetable acids, or those made up with oil. The oxymuriated acid is merely the muriatic acid, commonly called the marine acid, or spirit of salt, with the addition of a redundant quantity of oxygen, which, when it comes in contact with the vegetable colours (for which oxygen has a strong affinity) discharges them on a slight appli