several thicknesses or layers, glued together; but if manila paper is employed, a single sheet only is used. In either case the paper is moulded when damp on a wooden pattern of the form and dimensions of the proposed boat, and assumes the desired form by drying—a process which completely effaces all seams or wrinkles. Those parts of the wooden frame which are attached to the skin, viz., the kelson and deadwoods, are adjusted to the pattern so as to form part of it, and when the covering dries adheres to it. The application of waterproof varnish, the finishing of the frame and decks, with the usual brass and iron trimmings as in an ordinary boat, complete the building.

THE DOMESTIC USES OF AMMONIA.—The utility of ammonia in various domestic transactions is not unknown to many readers, nevertheless, it is not so widely recognized as it might be, save when presented under some fancy name at an exorbitant price. Ammonia is nearly as useful in housekeeping as soap, and its cheapness brings it within the reach of all. For many household purposes it is invaluable; yet its manifold uses are not so generally known as they should be. It is a most refreshing agent at the toilet table; a few drops in a basin of water will make a better bath than pure water, and if the skin is oily, it will remove all glossiness and disagreeable odours. Added to the foot-bath, it entirely absorbs all noxious smell so often arising from the feet in warm weather, and nothing is better for cleansing the hair from dandruff and dust. For the headache it is also a desirable stimulant, and frequent inhaling of its pungent odours will often entirely remove catarrhal cold. For cleansing paint it is very useful. [Doubtful; will it not gradually remove the paint?] Put a teaspoonful of ammonia to a quart of warm soap-suds, dip in a flannel cloth, and wipe off the dust and fly-specks, grime and smoke, and see for yourselves how much labour it will save you, no scrubbing will be needful. It will cleanse and brighten wonderfully; to a pint of hot suds mix a teaspoonful of the spirits, dip in your silver spoons, forks, &c., rub with a brush, and then polish on chamois skin. For washing mirrors and windows, it is also very desirable; put a few drops of ammonia upon a piece of newspaper, and you will readily take off every spot or finger-mark on the glass. It will take out grease-spots from any fabric; put on the ammonia nearly clear, lay blotting paper over the place, and press a hot flat iron on it for a few moments. A few drops in water will clean laces and whiten them finely, also muslins. For cleaning hair and nail brushes it is equally good. Put a teaspoonful of ammonia into one pint of warm or cold water and shake the brushes through the water; when the bristles look white, rinse them in cold water and put into the sunshine or in a warm place to dry. The dirtiest brushes will come out from this bath white and clean. There is no better remedy for heartburn and dyspepsia, and the aromatic spirit of ammonia is specially prepared for these troubles. Ten drops of it in a wineglass of water are often a great relief. The spirits of ammonia can be taken in the same way, but it is not as palatable a dose. Farmers and chemists are well aware of the beneficial effects of ammonia on all kinds of vegetation; and if you desire your roses, geraniums, fuchsias, &c., to become more flourishing, you can try it upon them, by adding five or six drops of it to every pint of warm water that you give them; but don't repeat the dose oftener than once in every five or six days, lest you stimulate them too highly. Rain-water is impregnated with ammonia, and thus it refreshes and vivifies vegetable life. So be sure and keep a large bottle of ammonia in the house, and have a glass stopper for it, as it is very evanescent, and also injurious to corks, eating them away.

DISINFECTANTS. — Sulphate of iron is useful from its action in decomposing ammonia carbonate and sulphohydrate. Per chloride of iron, besides this, precipitates albuminoid matters, and acts also by its chlorine. Lime disinfects organic matters, fixing carbonic acid and sulphuretted hydrogen, and decomposing hydrosulphate of ammonia. The permanganate of potassium is a most energetic oxidizing agent, decomposing sulphuretted hydrogen, destroying organic matter, and acting upon all fixed compounds with which it comes in contact. Chlorate of potassium may be used to disengage chlorine in places like cesspools, that are not easy to reach by other means. Chloride of lime acts by the chlorine it sets free, and chemically decomposes most foul gases Carbolic acid hinders the formation of miasms, and is, therefore, a good preventive of epidemics.

TEMPERATURE OF THE SUN.—Great difference of opinion exists as to the temperature of the sun; As an instance of this, it may be said that Father Secchi maintains this temperature to be about ten million degrees Centigrade. At a recent seance of the French Academy, in defending his estimate against the much lower figures of Ericsson, Zollner, and Faye, St. Claire Deville asserted that he was engaged in investigating the subject, and that his results fixed the temperature at about three or four times the melting temperature of platinum, about 6,000° to 8,000° C. M. Fizeau stated that having compared the solar light with that of the carbon points of the electric light, he had been able to estimate that the former was about three times as intense as the latter, and hence, assuming the relative calorific intensity to be in proportion to the luminous intensity, he had arrived at the figure of 8 000° C. as the correct one.

DIRECTIONS FOR BATHING.—The Royal Humane Society has issued the following instructions:—Avoid bathing within two hours after a meal; when exhausted by fatigue or from any other cause; when the body is cooling after perspiration; and altogether in the open air if, after having been a short time in the water, there is a sense of chilliness with numbness of the hands and feet. Bathe when the body is warm, provided no time is lost in getting into the water. Avoid chilling the body by sitting or standing undressed on the banks or in boats after having been in the water. Avoid remaining too long in the water—leave the water immediately there is the slightest feeling of chilliness. The vigorous and strong may bathe early in the morning on an empty stomach. The young, and those who are weak, had better bathe two or three hours after a meal—the best time for such is from two or three hours after breakfast. Those who are subject to attacks of giddiness or faintness, and those who suffer from palpitation and other sense of discomfort at the heart, should not bathe without first consulting their medical adviser.

A REMARKABLE FLOWER.—A Flower has been described by an eye-witness at Con-