added, and afterwards the turpentine, as directed above. The usual proportions are, twelve ounces of amber, two ounces of rosin, two ounces of bitumen, six of oil, and twelve of the essence of turpentine. Golden coloured varnish may be made also by substituting linseed oil for alcohol.

*Essential Oil Varnishes.—*The only essential oil var­nishes used are for pictures. Picture varnishes should be white, light, and quite transparent, which will preserve the colours without giving them any disagreeable tint ; and it should be possible to take them off the picture without injuring it. They are usually made of gum mastich and turpentine dissolved together in some essential oil. The varnish is passed through a cloth, and allowed to clarify. It is applied cold to the picture.

*Varnish for Glass in order to preserve it from the rays of the Sun.—*Pulverize a quantity of gum adragant.

and let it dissolve for twenty-four hours in the white of eggs well beat up; then rub it gently on the glass with a brush.

Varnishes, before they are used, should be carefully kept from dust, which would spoil them; and they should be kept in a vessel quite clean and dry. When used, they should be lifted lightly with a brush, and spread upon a ground altogether free from dirt and moisture. The sub­stance, after being varnished, should be exposed to the beat of the sun, or placed in a warm room covered with a glass case, to keep out all filth. Oil varnishes require more heat than alcohol varnishes. The varnish should be put on very quickly, making great strokes with the pencil or brush, taking care that these strokes never cross one another ; it should be spread equally, and never thicker than a leaf of paper; a second coat should never be put on till the first is quite dry. If the varnish, after being put on, becomes dull and uneven. It must be taken off entirely, and new varnish applied.

When wainscot is to be varnished. It is first painted of a wooden colour. This colour is made by infusing in water either red or yellow ochre (according to the colour wished for), terra ombria (a kind of ochre) and white lead ; into this as much as necessary is put of *parchment paste.* Two thin coats of this are to be put on, and, after they are quite dry, the varnish.

Varnishes are polished with pumice-stone and Tripoli earth. The pumice-stone must be reduced to an impalpable pow­der, and put upon a piece of serge moistened with water ; with this the varnished substance is to be rubbed lightly and equally. The Tripoli must also be reduced to a very fine powder, and put upon a clean woollen cloth moistened with olive oil, with which the polishing is to be performed. The varnish is then to be wiped with soft linen, and, when quite dry, cleaned with starch or Spanish white, and rubbed with the palm of the hand or with a linen cloth.

To recover colours or varnish, and to take off the dirt and filth which may adhere to them, a ley is used made of potash and the ashes of lees of wine. Take forty-eight ounces of potash, and sixteen of the above mentioned ashes, put them into six quarts of water, and the ley is made. Instead of the ashes an equal quantity of potash would probably do as well. To clean dirty colours, dilute some of this ley with four times its quantity of water, and rub the picture with it ; then wash it with river water ; and when dry, give it a coat or two of varnish. In order to take off a varnish, wash it with the above mentioned ley, then with water, and then lift it off the substance on which it was with any iron instrument.

VARPA, an island near the north-east coast of Sumatra, about thirty miles in circumference. Long. 103. 25. E. Lat. 0. 36. S.

VARRO, Marcus Terentius, a very learned and very miscellaneous writer, was born at Rome about the year 116

before the Christian era. He received what was then con­sidered as the best education that could be obtained. Hav­ing studied at Rome under Stilo, he proceeded to Athens, and became the disciple of Antiochus, an Academic philo­sopher. Returning to his native city, he began to take some share in the business of the forum, but he does not appear to have acquired much reputation as an orator. He successively filled the office of triumvir, and tribune of the people. When he was about forty-nine years of age, Pompey entrusted him with the command of a Greek fleet, employed in the war against the pirates. In a naval en­gagement which took place near the coast of Cilicia, he acquitted himself with so much courage, that he was the first that boarded one of the enemy’s ships; and in honour of this exploit, Pompey presented him with a rostral crown. For some time he acted as governor of Cilicia, apparently by virtue of an extraordinary appointment.

During the civil war which ensued, Varro adhered to Pompey, and was employed as his lieutenant in farther Spain. He was however advanced in years, and, accord­ing to Cæsar’s account, was disposed to follow the turns of fortune. The affairs of his own party having assumed a more promising aspect, he pursued measures of greater decision; and having embodied two legions, with thirty irregular cohorts, he made vigorous preparations for de­fending the province, but the speedy approach of Cæsar rendered all his plans abortive. One of his legions revolted, and the inhabitants evinced no disposition to make the quar­rel their own. Varro now adopted the resolution of march­ing towards Italy; but finding that this attempt was im­practicable, he offered to deliver the remaining legion to any one whom the victorious general should nominate. Having accordingly delivered it to Sextus Cæsar, he pre­sented himself to Julius Cæsar at Corduba, and made a surrender of all his treasure, ships, and stores. After this unfortunate termination of his military services, he appears to have devoted himself with great ardour and perseverance to the pursuits of literature; and, as his life was extended beyond the usual term, he produced a great number of works, and on a great variety of subjects. He cultivated a particular intimacy with Cicero, who inscribed to him his Academica, as he inscribed to Cicero a portion of his trea­tise “ De Lingua Latina.”

When Cæsar returned to Rome after having subdued all his enemies, Varro entertained some apprehension for his personal safety, and thought it prudent to withdraw from the city; but his fears were soon removed, and their hostility was at length converted into friendship. Cæsar committed to him the charge of forming and superintend­ing a public library; a charge for which he was eminently qualified by his very extensive and variegated learning. After the death of this ruler of the world, he was again exposed to danger: he was included in the same proscription which proved fatal to his friend Cicero; but, even on this occasion, his good fortune did not desert him. His wealth, as well as his political connexions, must have contributed to mark him for destruction. He was sheltered and con­cealed by Calenus, and his name was at length erased from the list of the proscribed. He was the possessor of several villas; and in the mean time one of these had been seized and plundered by Antony. The loss of his valuable li­brary, including some of his own writings, was one of the contingencies to which he was exposed at this unhappy crisis. He however survived for many years, and continued his studies with unabated ardour. At the age of seventy- eight, as we learn from Aulus Gellius, he had composed 490 books. According to Pliny, he still continued to write at the age of eighty-eight. His death is referred to the year 27 b. c.; and, according to the computation from this date and the supposed date of his birth, he must have at­tained the age of eighty-nine. It is not however im-