

LACQUER-WARE. From 3 to 18 coats of lacquer, obtained from the "varnish tree," are applied to very thin wooden or papier mâché shells, covered with silk gauze, in order to make the brilliantly decorated boxes and other objects of Japanese lacquer-ware with which we are all familiar. When the lacquering is done, the artist decorates the rich red, shining black, or brown or green background with golden birds, landscapes, water plants, etc. The finest gold lacquers are left undecorated, depending for their beauty on the multitude of tiny metallic grains shining from the depths of a pellucid ground.

Improving a Chinese Art

The Japanese borrowed the art of lacquering from China in ancient times, but brought it to a height of perfection never attained by the Chinese. Among other improvements, they originated the mother-of-pearl inlays, and the lacquering of gold, silver, copper, and leather. Lacquering is now foremost among Japanese art industries. The tree whose sap furnishes the lacquer is named *Rhus vernicifera*; it grows wild in China, and is cultivated in Japan.

The "lac" used in making varnishes, shellac, sealing-wax, etc., must not be confused with the lacquer described above. It is obtained from a scale insect (*Coccus lacca*), which lives upon the twigs of certain species of fig trees and some other trees in the Orient.

These scale insects, in compact colonies of many thousands of females and a few males, attach themselves to the bark and draw up the sap, upon which they feed.

They afterwards become glued to the twig by the superfluous excretion, and after a time die, forming by their bodies little domes over their myriads of eggs. Generation after generation

dwells upon the same twig until it is enveloped in a coating often half an inch thick. The preparation of lac from these twigs—called "stick lac"—is an important industry in parts of India and southern China. By tying the stick lac to other trees the insects are induced to spread and thus two crops a year are harvested. The insects secrete a beautiful reddish colouring matter which is strained and evaporated when the lac is melted, and from which the "lake" tints of artists' colours are prepared.

LACROSSE. Of the games now played in America there is probably none that is so truly American as the game of lacrosse. According to Catlin, an American artist and writer who described the Indians early in the 19th century, this was the favourite game of the most active tribes.

As played by the Indians there were sometimes several hundred persons on a side. The goals were placed half a mile or farther apart, the size of the playing area was almost limitless, and games sometimes lasted for many hours.

"Baggataway" is the name that the Ojibway Indians gave to the sport. Lacrosse is the name given to it by the French and English colonists who learned the game from the Indians and who revised its rules.

A Game of Speed and Endurance

The game soon became very popular among

the white people, and was for many years the accepted national game of Canada. It is a game that demands of the player great agility, speed, and endurance, also skill and dexterity in handling his "stick." The game was introduced into the British Isles in 1876, and achieved a fair measure of popularity.

Lacrosse is played with a solid rubber ball $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter, which is caught and carried in or thrown from a "stick" 3 to 4 feet long, shaped like a fish-hook, with the curved part filled with a strong netting of raw-hide or heavy cat-gut.

The ball is caught and thrown from this netting, which extends half-way up the handle of the stick. The player

usually places one hand on the end of the stick and the other round the middle near the netting. The playing field now is about 120 yards long, with a goal 6 feet square, like a hockey goal, at each end.

There are 12 men in a team, and the general purpose is by running with the ball, throwing it, or passing it from one man to another to

WHO WILL BE THE LUCKY ONE?



These girls are taking part in a game of lacrosse, and all are making a great effort to catch the ball in the "crosse."