

The Preservation of Antiquities.*

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A REVIEW.



ALTHOUGH termed a handbook for curators, there are few books more useful and necessary to all who are either the possessors or the custodians of objects of antiquity in any form. Specially will it appeal to those who have the responsibility of the care of our ancient churches, for it is often sad to see the deterioration which time works upon the wood and metal relics of our forefathers' industry. The translators now present to us in a simple and readable form the best processes and recipes yet known to science for the preservation of every kind of material. Moreover, by a series of photographic illustrations upon the "before and after" principle, they demonstrate the success of their experiments in a practical manner. The character of the book throughout is its usefulness, and whatever the objects be that require attention—whether they are worm-eaten pulpits or chests, painted doors, faded paintings on canvas, glass or wall, rusted iron work, crumbling book-bindings, or discoloured and painted stone-work, the remedy is there.

The writer of this review has tested the recipes for the preservation of church oak with complete success. Hence he has thought it worth while to bring this subject to the notice of Derbyshire readers, in the hope that thereby something at least may be saved which would otherwise perish; for it is easier to preserve than to create.

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