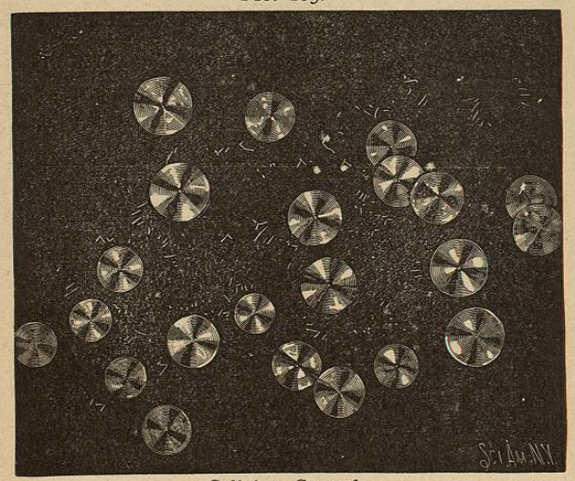
SUGGESTIONS IN DECORATIVE ART.

Occasionally, evidences of the use of the microscope in decorative art are seen, and every microscopist knows that

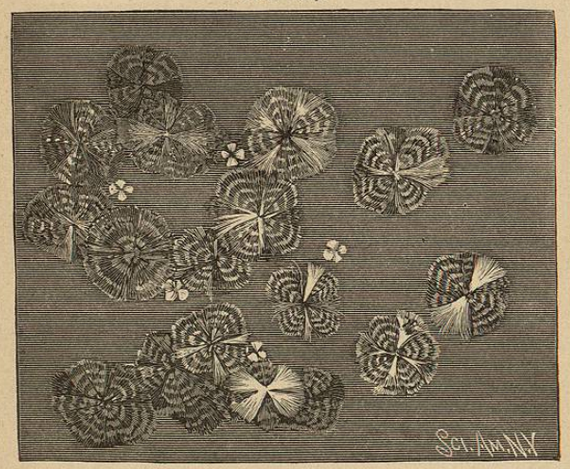
FIG. 283.



Salicine Crystals.

there are thousands of beautiful forms lost to unaided human vision which are revealed only to the user of the

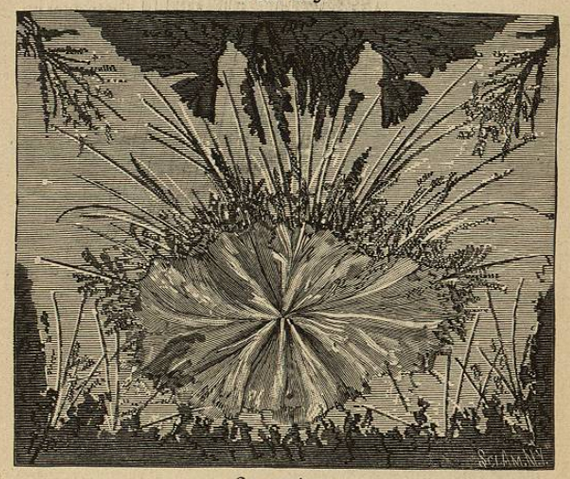
FIG. 284.



Sulphate of Cadmium.

microscope.* These minute forms are always exquisite in their construction and finish, often symmetrical and graceful

FIG. 285.



Santonine.

in form, and quite as often finely colored. All this is true of microscopic objects in general, but it is especially true of

FIG. 286.

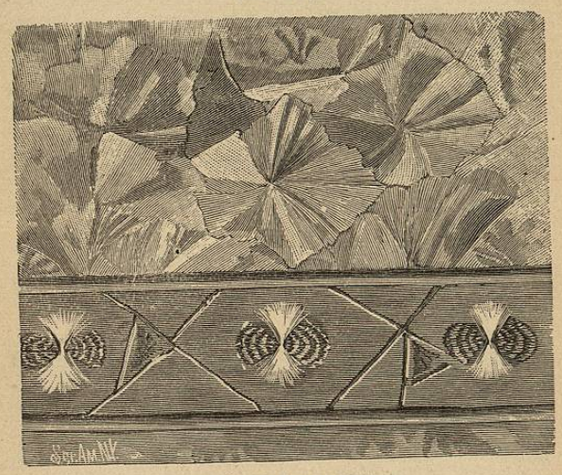
Lithic Acid.

* See also chapter on microscopy.

polariscopic microscope objects. Some of these are, to a certain extent, artificial. The crystals, for example, are the result of manipulation, but the laws of crystallization are natural, so that, after all, we are indebted to nature even for these objects.

In the present instance, a few striking examples of crystallization have been selected as the basis of some suggestions in decorative art. These crystals, as exhibited by polarized light in the microscope, are shown in the annexed engravings, necessarily divested of their principal charm—

FIG. 287.



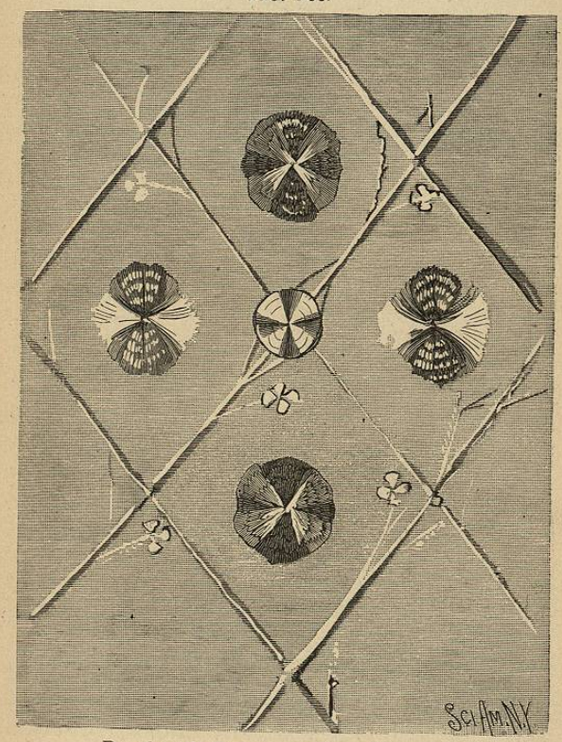
Border Dado or Frieze.

that of color. The forms only are shown. The reader can imagine these figures invested with most gorgeous colors combined in a perfectly harmonious way. In respect to color, the polariscope never errs. Whatever colors are presented are correctly related to each other. This feature alone is of great value to the designer and colorist. The circular crystals of salicine, shown in Fig. 283, are always interesting. The play of the radial bands of color as the polarizer or analyzer is revolved gives each disk the appearance of having an actual rotation of its own.

In Fig. 284 are shown the delicate, feathery crystals of sulphate of cadmium, in which the coloring, as exhibited by polarized light, is scarcely more beautiful than the exquisite forms. The shapes of the different crystals vary somewhat, but there is a characteristic feature pervading them all.

In Fig. 285 are shown crystals of santonine in a variety

FIG. 288.



Panel with Ornamentation of Crystals.

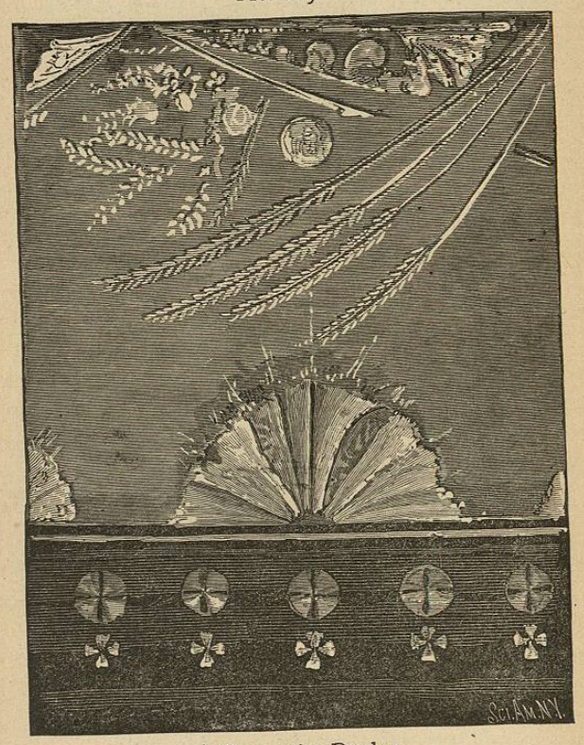
of forms—some like spears of grass, others resembling heads of grain, and still others like ferns and various leaves, while the larger crystals or aggregation of crystals has a radial arrangement.

In Fig. 286 are shown crystals of lithic acid, which adjoin each other, and form a solid field, having strongly contrasting bands of light and dark color.

Fig. 287 will be recognized as a part of a dado, frieze, or border, formed of lithic acid as a ground, crystals of platino-cyanide of barium as the division of the panels, and crystals of sulphate of cadmium as rosettes upon the centers of the panels.

Fig. 288 shows a panel formed in part of the same crys-

FIG. 289.



A Composite Border.

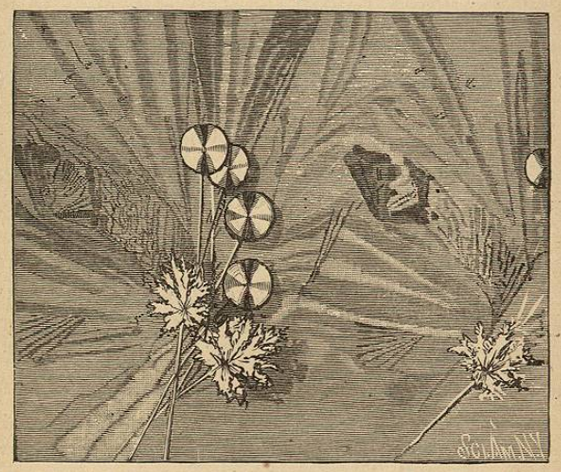
tals, with a crystal of salicine planted at the intersection of two of the slender platino-cyanide of barium crystals, and small crystals of kinate of quinia forming flowers.

In Fig. 289 is shown a border formed of crystals of santonine, arranged on a ground of neutral tint, with a row of circular crystals of sulphate of copper and magnesia above

a row of crystals of kinate of quinia, arranged on a dark ground.

Fig. 290 shows a pattern having a background of stearic

FIG. 290.



Pattern with Background of Stearic Acid and Crystal Leaves, Stalks, and Flowers.

acid, branches of platino-cyanide of barium, leaves of platino-cyanide of magnesium, and flowers of salicine.

What has been shown in the engravings constitutes only a hint of what may be done in this direction. The number of beautiful crystals and other polariscope objects available for this purpose is very large.