

## Mud of Bentonite Clay Most Versatile Product; Has Medicinal and Other Uses

About the most versatile mud in the world is that made by mixing bentonite clay with water. The solid factor in this mud may have been used in a soap mixture to make your wineglass sparkle, and is often used to settle the wine which fills the glass, says Technology Review. Then, if dinner has disagreed with you, and your inward activities have to be X-rayed, bentonite may be used as a vehicle to carry through your alimentary system the barium sulphate which will be photographed.

Unconsciously following the precept of the Indians, who used bentonite as a soap, the beauty addict may have her face packed with a clay in which bentonite is an important element, and then may treat a blemish with salve that bentonite has thickened.

Bentonite derives its name from the Fort Benton shales of the upper Missouri valley. Product of the weathering of volcanic glass, it appears in minute percentages in all soils and is found also in large deposits, of which several are in the United States.

At an extreme from these personal uses of the obliging mud are mechanical, industrial, and agricul-

tural applications of bentonite. The simplest of these was the utilization of a bentonite mud to grease the axles of wagons, a method which the pioneers of American westward colonization were said to have practiced.

In our own more complex industrial days, bentonite mud is of unusual value in quickly remedying defects in concrete construction, being used to plug cracks in dams when nothing else works. Similarly, an injection of bentonite mud pumped into an oil well will seep into and plug horizontal seams cut by the well hole, preventing caving of walls and the infiltration of water into the well. A current of thin bentonite mud, pumped down the inner tube of an oil-well casing during the process of drilling, is used to flush out the cuttings of the drill, bringing them back to the surface through the outer casing.

### Church Used as Laundry

A tourist to Iceland found at Vidmyri an old church where the folk worshiped on Sunday, but which on weekdays was used as the village laundry, with the family wash of the congregation suspended over the pews.

## Versatility of Bentonite Uses Again Highlighted

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