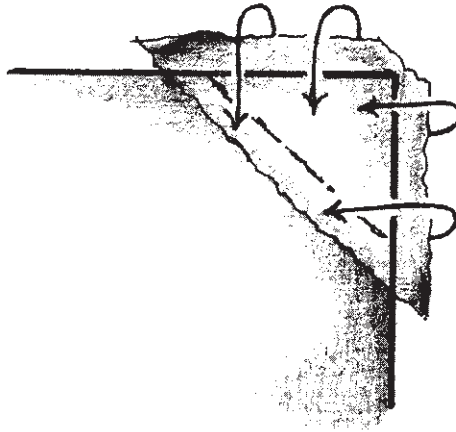


2

DUST ON THE HEAD

Neglected books collect dust particularly along the top edge. The grime is usually acidic and this will erode the paper. Open the covers and place cutting boards on either side of the volume up to the joint and level with the text edge. Centre the book in a laying press and screw firmly. See illustration 2. Brush the head with a medium stiff brush and clean with an eraser. If necessary this is followed by wiping from spine to foredge with a damp sponge. Rinse the sponge and repeat the process. This is effective on gilt edges provided



3

that the pressure is not too intense and little moisture is used. Dust penetrates between gaping and dog-eared leaves causing furrows of grime down the page. These are removed by dusting with a soft brush and the use of erasers as described on page 15.

DOG EARS

Leaves turned down at the corners are the result of careless and unsympathetic handling. A touch of moisture from a damp sponge along the fold will straighten the crease. Should the paper be broken or weak it is strengthened with thin mending tissue similar in shade that is torn irregularly for an unobtrusive join. Paste the corner and lay down the tissue to cover the crease and firm it with a folder. If necessary the overlapping tissue is turned over to stiffen the edge, and the excess is trimmed. See illustration 3.

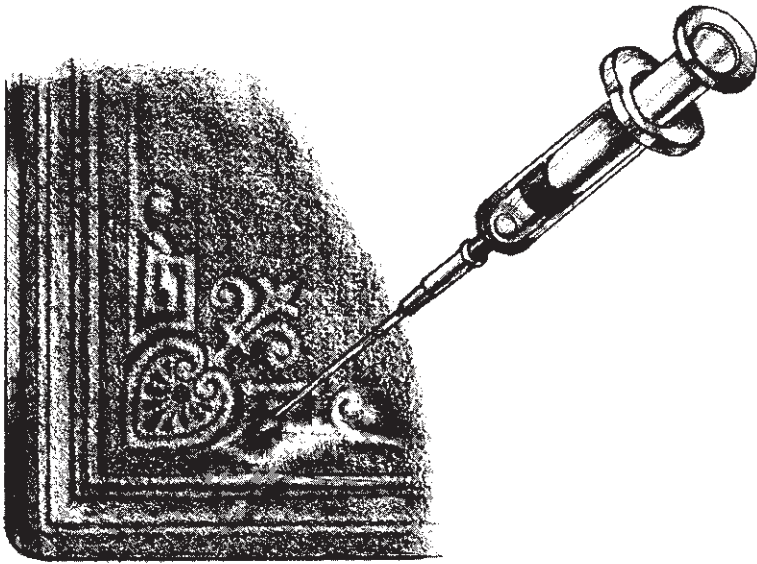
A crease may run from top to bottom of a leaf and the procedure is to protect the adjacent leaves with waxed paper and dab along the crease on both sides with a moistened sponge. Carefully ease the crease apart. Align it with the others and retain its position with covered weights. When dry, strengthen it with tissue if necessary as outlined on page 26.

FAILURE OF AN ADHESIVE

Inefficient or sparse applications of an adhesive or the deterioration of glue due to damp or extreme dry conditions will cause air spaces between materials and the separation of tissue from lined cloths. Another cause is the disintegration of adhesive by fungal attacks. By physically bending boards or other materials the unstuck areas will be apparent. These are injected with glue or paste using a hypodermic syringe and the adhesive is worked beneath the material and pressed down with the fingers. The needle hole will be unnoticeable if it penetrates within a decorative feature or it is inserted at the board edge. See illustration 4.

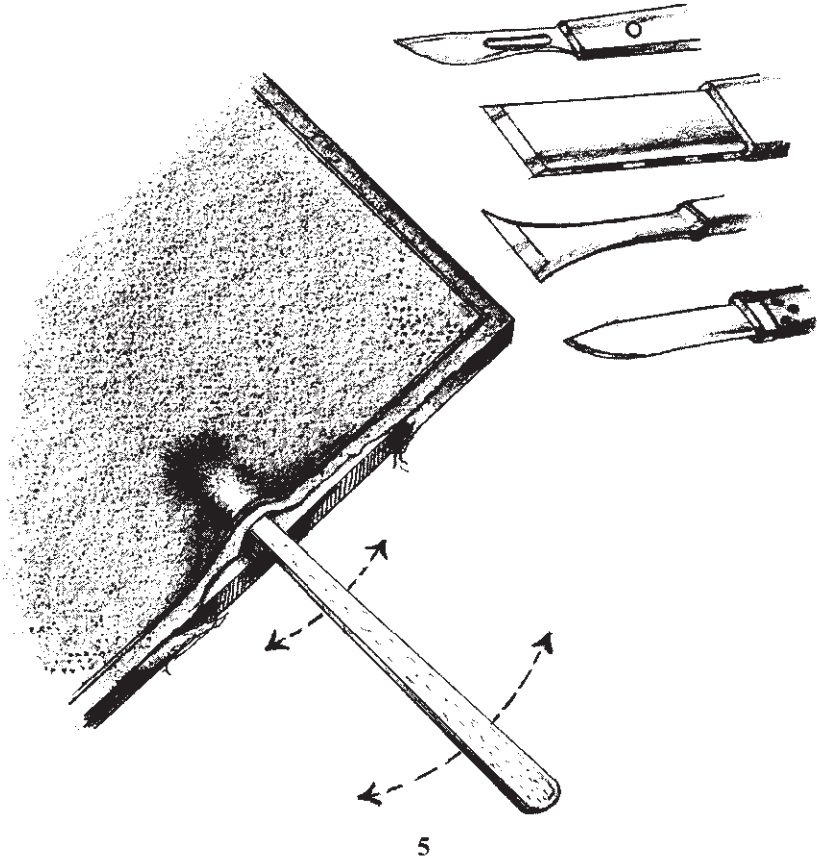
SCUFFED AND MISSING CLOTH

This is evidence of either a well favoured book or an example of poor covering material. To effect a repair the scuffed area of the cloth is raised about 10mm from the book edge. This is accomplished by the use of a 'raising' knife, scalpel or a thin, flat



4

folder. Whichever tool is preferred it is worked from side to side gradually progressing inwards. See illustration 5. Extreme care is exercised when raising the board paper. The distance need be only 5mm. A paper template is torn slightly larger than the area to be repaired allowing extra for the turn-in and from this a piece of matching cloth is cut. Its edges are pared in order to be less noticeable when in position. Paste the board and the gaps between its layers if necessary and whilst soft consolidate it with pressure from a folder or tap it with a hammer. Paste around the damaged area and replacement piece and ease the latter under the raised cloth and turn it over the board edge. Model the cloth with a folder easing



out the creases and snipping off loose threads. If the cloth is embossed use the folder gently to avoid crushing the pattern. Border lines can be impressed with the round of a folder whilst the material is damp but printed lines are replaced when the cloth is dry by means of a mitred fillet. The effect is improved if the warm tool is first run over a sheet of worn carbon paper. This paper is available in black, blue and red but other colours

can be obtained from printing ink which is spread thinly and evenly on to the flesh side of a strip of leather and the cold fillet rolled to pick up the ink.

DAMAGED CORNERS

The breakdown of a corner occurs through gross mishandling and careless storage although poor quality board is a contributory factor. To repair a corner that has collapsed inward without damage to the cloth, open up the material at the corner. Use the blade of a scalpel, or a needle, to push adhesive between the fibres of the card and under the cloth. Remake the cloth corner and tap it with a hammer to firm it; leave the work to dry. If a corner is damaged it is inevitable that parts of the cloth cover will be torn or missing. For minimal damage the cloth is eased clear of the broken area with a 'lifting' blade. Glue the broken fibres of the board and insert adhesive between the layers. Whilst still moist tap the corner with a hammer and shape with a folder. The blows may spread the card and make it thinner but when it is dry trim the corner to size. The corner is stiffened and built up to its original thickness by capping with kraft paper which is sandpapered when dry. See illustration 6 A. Should the damage be extensive and part of the corner missing, the broken layers are separated and a pared wedge of card is glued and inserted in the middle. Thinner similarly shaped cards are glued on either side. Beat the corner with a hammer to consolidate whilst it is still moist and allow it to dry. Excess card is pared