

## WHITENING LINEN.

According to a French writer, crystallized carbonate of soda, although so great a favorite with the washerwomen, is a declared foe to linen, since, notwithstanding its cleansing power, it attacks the fibre, and after a time makes it so rotten as to cause it to tear, almost at the touch. An improvement on this substance, it is said, consists in the employment of a solution in the proportion of two pounds of soap to twenty-five quarts of warm water, to which are to be added one table-spoonful of essence of turpentine and three spoonfuls of ammonia. The mixture is to be stirred by the help of a little broom, and the linen immersed in it for several hours, the tub being completely covered. The articles are then to be washed in the ordinary way, rinsed in tepid water, and then blued, if this is necessary. The same solution can be used twice over by heating again and adding half the amount given of essence of turpentine and ammonia.

It is claimed that this process is accompanied by great economy of time, labor, and fuel, and that the linen experiences little or no injury, appearing finally in a condition of irreproachable whiteness. The ammonia, it is said, does not exert any corrosive effect upon the fibre, since it evaporates immediately; and the odor of the turpentine entirely disappears in drying.