BLUE (from Fr. *bleu*, in itself borrowed from the Germanic nations; OHG. *blāo*, AS. *blōw*, Ger. *blau*). A primary color of the same shade as the clear sky and the turquoise, and located in the solar spectrum after the green and before the violet. This color has been conspicuously used as a badge to designate military bodies. It was the favorite color of the Scottish Covenanters in the seventeenth century, when it was called "true blue," and is the color commonly worn by the soldiers of the United States army for dress uniforms. The sailors of most navies are dressed in uniforms of a darker color, called *navy blue*. Among blue minerals the sapphire and the turquoise are highly valued as gems; the lapis lazuli has been extensively used for ornamental purposes. The coloring matter of blue flowers is due to a pigment called *anthocyanin*. Among the more important blue pigments are the following: *Antwerp blue*, a mixture of Prussian blue and alumina; *azure blue*, a cobalt oxide fused with glass and ground to powder; *Berlin blue*, another name for both Antwerp blue and Prussian blue; *bice blue*, originally native azurite powdered and washed, more commonly, however, a preparation of smalt; *Bremen blue*, chalk or whiting mixed with a solution of copper in nitric acid; *China blue*, crude cobalt oxide ground with potash and mixed with feldspar, fused, and powdered; *cobalt blue*, 10 parts of aluminum mixed with 1 part of a cobalt salt, slowly dried, and heated to a dull redness and ground to powder; *king's blue*, a cobalt carbonate; *mountain blue*, native copper carbonate or azurite; *mineral blue*, a synonym for Antwerp blue; *Paris blue*, a synonym for both cobalt blue and Prussian blue; *Prussian blue* is ferric ferrocyanide made by adding potassium ferrocyanide to a solution of ferrous sulphate, and the resulting precipitate oxidized, washed, and dried; *queen blue*, a synonym for lump blue used in laundries (bluing); *Saunders blue*, ultramarine ashes obtained from the resinous mass in making ultramarine; *Saxon(y) blue*, Prussian blue and aluminum hydrate; *smalt*, a cobalt ore heated with flint and potash and ground to a powder; *Thénard blue*, a synonym for cobalt blue; *ultramarine*, originally prepared from lapis lazuli, but now made synthetically by heating together kaolin, sodium sulphate, sodium carbonate, sulphur, and charcoal, then pulverizing, washing, and drying. Among the dyestuffs that yield a blue color are the following, the origin of many of which is indicated by their names: *alizarin blue; aniline blue; anthracene blue; chemic blue*, a solution of indigo; *Coupier's blue*, derived from induline; *dahlia blue*, derived from rosaniline; *diamine blues; ethylene blue*, derived from diethylaniline; *indigo blue*, originally derived from the indigo plant and now made synthetically; *logwood blue*, an extract of logwood; *methylene blue*, derived from methylaniline; *night blue*, derived from rosaniline; *resorcine blue*, derived from phenol; *soluble blue*, derived from rosaniline; *sulphur blues*, and *Victoria blue*, derived from rosaniline.