

*mordens*, pres. p. of *mordere*, to bite). Substances used in dyeing for the purpose of fixing colors on textile fabrics. The manner in which mordants act has been described under DYEING. It remains to enumerate here the most important mordants employed by the dyer. Among *basic mordants* may be mentioned alum, aluminium sulphate, ferrous acetate, ferrous sulphate, ferric sulphate, ferric acetate, ferric nitrate, stannous chloride (tin crystals), stannic chloride (the solution is known commercially as cotton spirits), stannic oxide (produced by soaking cotton in a solution of sodium stannate and then passing it through dilute sulphuric acid), potassium (or sodium) bichromate, chromium acetate, and chrome alum. Among the acid mordants may be mentioned tannic acid and the so-called fatty acids. The latter are applied first in the form of their sodium or potassium salts (soaps) dissolved in water; then the fabric is passed through a solution of aluminium sulphate, which combines with the fatty acids to form insoluble aluminium salts on the fibre; finally when a basic dyestuff is applied the aluminium salts react with it, their acids combining to yield permanent colors. See DYEING; LAKES.

**MOR/DANTS** (OF., Fr. *mordant*, from Lat.