

RARE BOGUS GEMS.

Small Rubies and Sapphires Enlarged to Any Size.

The discovery of a Parisian manufacturer who is making rubies and sapphires of large size by an ingenious process is likely to cause trouble among English, as it has done already among French, jewelers and dealers in precious stones.

A London gentleman, who has learned the secret of the process from the manufacturer himself, said that these rubies and sapphires are made by taking the remnants of cut stones, and also small and badly shaped stones, which by themselves are of little value, and making them up by means of the electrical furnace and high-pressure moulds to any size required.

"I have seen rubies and sapphires thus manufactured ranging in size up to half an inch," he said. "These stones are called 'constructed' rubies and 'constructed' sapphires, and they possess all the quality of the original stone. Indeed, the only way to detect the difference between the 'constructed' and original stone is to look at the grain, or 'silk,' as jewelers call it, through a powerful microscope.

"The 'silk' is straight in the original stone, and curly or cloudy in the 'constructed' one. A firm of London pawnbrokers advanced more than \$2,000 a month ago on a 'constructed' ruby. Of course, it was not worth anything like \$200; but that was the market price of an original stone of the same size. The ratio of value between the 'constructed' and original stone is about two-fifths.

"You can see, however, that one is perfectly safe in wearing these stones. I am told that the ruby trade in England is already suffering in anticipation for jewelers, who are fully aware of the existence of these 'constructed' stones, also know that large quantities of them will soon appear in the English markets."

Germany and Peace.

Unless an agreement can be reached by Germany and Great Britain regarding the latter's proposal to limit armaments, the Hague Peace Conference will probably be a complete fiasco.

The Russian Government is reported to be greatly discouraged at the result of Prof. de Martens' tour of the European courts, on behalf of the Powers in his scheme of disarmament.

It is stated on reliable authority that Germany objects to Great Britain's proposal for the limitation of armaments, and demands its withdrawal. Should Germany be successful in this, Great Britain will probably withdraw from the conference, and the United States may do likewise.

If Great Britain's proposal is maintained on the program of the conference, it is probable that Germany, and perhaps, Austria, will withdraw. The Czar is reported to be endeavoring to secure an agreement between Great Britain and Germany on this point, and he is in personal communication with the Kaiser.

Eton's Odd Punishment.

A new form of punishment has been adopted at Eton College. Offenders against the school rules have now to write a certain number of "lines" with the left hand. The scheme has met with general approval among the governing body, though it is said that some boys would rather be birched than have to undergo the new penance.

The headmaster, the Hon. and Rev. E. Lytton, who is a great believer in ambidexterity, is of opinion that everyone should be taught to use the left hand. If the left side was not as active as the right, the left side of the brain was affected. Writing with the left hand would have a good effect upon the brain, and there would be no such thing as writer's cramp. The boys will not be kept in school longer than they were formerly, and the number of lines allotted will be much fewer.

A number of boys, it is said, are practicing the art of writing with the left hand during their leisure time.

Farm for Street Beggar.

Through the generosity of a certain woman and man, Charles Ansell, 50 years old, who was charged at Witley, England, a few weeks ago with singing in the street for alms, took first-class passage with his wife and three children on the steamship Pomoranian for Manitoba, where there is a farm waiting for him to take possession.

When Ansell was brought before Ald. Wright his appearance favorably impressed the magistrate, and Robert Marshall, the court missionary, was asked to investigate the case.

It was ascertained that Ansell was a steady, industrious man and had served under Lord Roberts in India and elsewhere. His wife and three children were starving.

A well-to-do woman took an interest in the unfortunate family, and her husband presented them with a farm of about 300 acres near the town of Minnedota, Canada.

Invalid Averts Eviction.

Exciting eviction scenes were witnessed near Dublin when the house of a widow named Maher was raided by bailiffs and twenty police-men.

Barricades placed in front of the house were broken down, and the police then effected an entrance by breaking the windows and the door. They removed the furniture, but afterward a doctor certified that one of the inmates of the house, a woman 55 years old, was an invalid, and that her life would be imperiled by the eviction.

The High Sheriff was appealed to, and he ordered the furniture to be taken back. This was done, and the barricades were again erected.

A Colliery Record.

What is claimed to be a record day's winding of coal for any colliery in the United Kingdom was made last week at the Bargoed colliery of the Powell Dyfryn Company, Cardiff. The quantity of coal raised during the day was 3,245 tons.

PENSIONS IN AUSTRALIA.

Provision For Old Age Devised by Royal Commission.

A report of great interest has been made by the Australian royal commission on Old-Age Pensions. The commission was appointed in 1905 to consider the existing state schemes and to devise a scheme for the whole Commonwealth. The systems at present in force are:

New South Wales: Maximum pension 10s a week; for married people 7s 6d a week each; may be claimed at the age of 65. Income, including pension, must not exceed £52 a year. Cost to state of 22,000 pensioners, £508,000.

New Zealand: Maximum 10s a week; in case of a married couple, joint income, including pension, must not exceed £90. May be claimed at 65, if claimant has been 25 years resident. Police magistrates administer, without boards, at trifling cost. Pensioners, 11,770; total cost, £235,000.

Victoria: Maximum 8s a week; at 65, or earlier in case of dangerous or unhealthy occupations; 20 years' residence. Income, including pension, must not exceed £22. Pensioners, 11,452; cost, £205,000.

The commissioners recommend a scheme of old-age pensions for the whole Commonwealth to be paid out of the consolidated revenue, as follows:

Maximum 10s a week, payable at 65, or on conditions, at 60, in case of permanent incapacity. Payments fortnightly through postoffice. Total income, including pension, not to exceed £52. Estimated cost £2,500,000 a year.

The commissioners lay down that pensions should be granted as a right, not as a charity, though they propose that persons of drunken or disreputable habits shall be ineligible, and that in certain cases the allowances shall be suspended. They also suggest that a penalty shall be imposed for supplying a pensioner with intoxicating drink. They do not think the institution of pensions will discourage thrift, and suggest that the Government should encourage a spirit of independence by establishing an assurance system which would enable those wishing to provide for old age to do so with the certainty afforded by a Government guarantee.

TWO MEN SNOWED UP.

Hut Buried in Drift and They Have to Tunnel Out.

An Englishman named Morgan and a German friend of his have had a terrible experience on the Salzkof, a mountain 9,265 feet high.

They left Schrunz, on the frontier of Switzerland and Austria, with the intention of ascending the mountain on skis, and they took no guides with them.

Nothing was heard of them, and at the end of three days a search party was organized. It found no trace of the missing men, and Mr. Morgan and his friend were given up for lost.

They crawled into Schrunz half dead from want of food and exhaustion. When near the summit of the Salzkof they were overtaken by a blinding snowstorm, and after wandering about aimlessly for some time they discovered a hut, in which they took shelter.

Hour after hour the snow fell, until the hut was buried beneath it and they were close prisoners. Their only food for four days was two loaves of bread, and melted snow was their only drink.

Then Mr. Morgan, in desperation, burrowed through the drift round the hut, and forced a passage through the snow, which was waist-high in the open, followed by his German companion, who was even more exhausted than he was.

Both of them are reported to be well on the road to recovery.

The Quiser Parson Bird.

Two splendid male specimens of the peo honey eater were recently acquired by the Zoological Society. Its throat is adorned with small white feathers, which, from their resemblance to clerical bands, have gained for it the name "parson bird." Its metallic green plumage, with bronze and purplish reflections, is very beautiful. The legs and rather slender beak is curved; it has rather large feet and the length of its tail is considerable.

Although somewhat rarely seen in this country alive, this bird is plentiful on both the north and south islands of New Zealand. It is a good singer and mimic, and its lively temperament renders it a most interesting cage bird. Its food consists of berries, insects, and honey. It has an extensive song, the tip of which is forked, and, being covered with feathers, forms a kind of brush, most useful to the parson bird in gathering its food.—Pall Mall Gazette.

Home For Lost Cats.

Lady Decies opened in the Fulham road, London, a home for lost cats, which may fairly be described as a cat's paradise. The only qualification for admission is homelessness, and the accommodation provided is most luxurious.

Outside there is a large wind-run for exercise, furnished with a tree and a bed of mould, inside, the sleeping quarters for the winter time consist not only of little wooden huts but of shelves, arranged like berths in a ship's cabin, which the inmates reach by vigorous springs from one to another of a series of buckets. The daily menu is most elaborate, and meals are served as follows:

Dinner—Cats' meat; then, two days a week, or for invalids, gruel or rice vegetables.

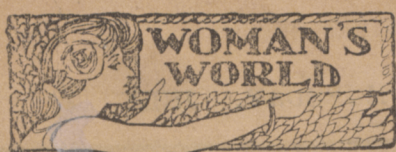
Tea (at four o'clock)—Milk.

Supper (at eight)—Same as dinner.

Nightcap (at nine)—Milk.

More "Jungle" Complaints.

Dr. Blyth has reported to the Marylebone Borough Council that a few of the canned meats from America, which he analyzed, were distinctly unfit for human food and made from dirty material. "Probably enough the sweepings of the factory," samples of the latest consignments of canned foods from the United States examined were wholly unobjectionable.



MISS MARGARET M. HANNA.

Confidential Secretary to Assistant Secretary of State Alvey A. Ade.

Miss Margaret M. Hanna enjoys the distinction of being one of the keenest diplomats in the government service.

In her capacity of confidential secretary to Assistant Secretary of State Alvey A. Ade, Miss Hanna has at her command the full knowledge of affairs which pass through the office of the



MISS MARGARET M. HANNA.

assistant secretary of state, and frequently during the absence of that officer she conducts the office almost as efficiently as her distinguished chief.

She is regarded by the high officials as the most efficient woman employee in the government service.

Miss Hanna is an accomplished linguist and each year collects all the diplomatic correspondence of the year and compiles it in a book, which is published under the title of "Foreign Relations."

Too Anxious by Half.

A vast number of people are needlessly anxious about their manners. Having been "house folks" all their lives, contentedly and usefully rounding out their days among kindred and neighbors who love and understand them and share their standards, says an editorial in the Home Journal, they are prone when they make a rare excursion into another atmosphere to a painful self-consciousness that spoils their pleasures.

Travel is not at all necessary to culture. Some of the finest culture the world has ever seen owed nothing to travel. But there is one comfortable result of travel, and that is the assurance it gives that people are pretty much alike. The superficial traveler may be impressed by "how different" things abroad are from those at home, but the wise observer is always being newly made aware how much the same are things the world over.

So with the gift of tongues. One of the best services it does for us is to show how much in common different people have when they can understand each other. History is another help. The deeper into the past the student delves the more wonderfully he realizes how little time has altered human nature. And as for exalted rank and superior talents, it seems as if every one ought to enjoy the advantage of informal association with at least one celebrity, in order to prove how little real difference there is between them.

Knowing these things keeps one delightfully free from that diffidence which prevents many persons from appearing well in strange societies.

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from getting that best of the stranger which he can give only to one with whom he can be at ease. When it comes to manners there are very few things, after all, that are essential, and more people make an awkward appearance because they are too concerned about their manners than err in the other extreme. An absorbed interest in another individual, an eager desire to learn how his experience of life corroborates or transcends our own, a sweet willingness to give of our best toward the pleasantness of the occasion—these are much better beginnings in good manners than are all the etiquette books in creation.

The way to enjoy other people is to think as little as possible of any points in which they may differ from us and as much as possible of the many points in which they must resemble us. And as for which fork to eat fish with, and whether to leave one card or two, and what to say to a hostess who presented what folly to acknowledge oneself into a cold perspiration over those things when if we but knew the truth we should find that about four-fifths of those present had no more settled convictions on the subject than we. And if we could see the knowing fifth neatly roped off from the rest we should find fewer of the great, the interesting, the delightful among them than among the others. Great men eat with the wrong fork quite as often as do shy girls from the country.

Javelle Water.

Javelle water is sold by most druggists, but it is not difficult to make and is much less expensive when prepared at home. Every laundress should use it, as it is effective in keeping linen and children's dresses free from fruit stains. A small tencup of the fluid added to a boiler of water will assist materially in keeping the clothes white and will not hurt them in the least.

The most obstinate stains of fruit, tea, coffee, etc., in the tablecloth and napkins will succumb to an application of one part of javelle water diluted with four parts of soft water. If the stained article is soaked in this fluid for several hours, thoroughly washed and rinsed it will usually come out perfectly white and clean. Only white goods can be treated this way, however, as javelle water is likely to fade colors.

It is made thus: Place four pounds of washing soda in a large granite or porcelain lined pan and pour over it four quarts of hot water. Stir with a stick until the soda has dissolved, add a pound of chloride of lime and stir until this has dissolved. Allow the liquid to cool in the pan, strain the portion through a thin cloth into wide mouth jugs or bottles and cork tightly for use. The part that contains the sediment also may be bottled and used for cleaning the sink, kitchen table, etc.

When running brass rods through window curtains put an old glove runner over the end that is being pushed through the hem. Unless this is done the material is apt to tear.

A dyspeptic can eat and retain raw eggs when nothing else will stay on the stomach.

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Wood's Peppermint Cure is sold in Fredericton by all Druggists.

Introduction Customs. In introducing a woman and a man the latter should be presented to the former, as, for instance, Mrs. Jones, allow me to present Mr. Smith. In the case of two women, one elderly, the younger should be presented to the elder as a pretty mark of respect, as, Mrs. Jones, my friend, Miss Brown. In the event of one party to the introduction being an elderly man of prominence it would be proper to show him the deference and present both a man and woman if younger to him.

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