

ODD THINGS IN A MINE.

The History of the Diamond is Shrouded in a Great Mystery.

Most Extraordinary Thing Found in the Mining of the Sparklers.

Does Nature Scatter Her Precious Gems Broadest From Some World in Space—Diamondiferous Soil.

The following paragraph appears in a South African paper: "At the Primer mine a blast was put in about 13 feet from the surface and in the yellow ground some 3 feet below the limestone formation, which upon being exploded brought down among the displaced diamondiferous soil a perfect and full sized ostrich egg. This wonderful discovery is apparently petrified and evidently hollow, and must have been imbedded in the ground for countless years, and without exception is the most extraordinary find yet made in the history of diamond mining."

This is certainly a very curious discovery, but it does not stand alone, for ostrich eggs more or less perfect have been found both at De Beers and Colesberg Kopje in a fossilized condition. Large pieces of charred fossil wood have also been found from time to time, one of which is described as a portion of a fossil tree 4 feet in length and nearly 5 feet in circumference. This was found in Dutoitspan mine at a depth of 8 feet. At Kimberley there was dug up part of a stem of a tree with a branch attached at a depth of 350 feet from the surface, and a still more singular find was an ant's nest, quite perfect and undisturbed.

Another very remarkable fact is that more than once a broken diamond has been found, and at some distance from it the other portion, the two parts uniting perfectly. This was the case with the wonderful black diamond, which forms a portion of the collection of Mr. Streeter, the well known Bond street jeweler. The diamond referred to, which is said to be the largest black diamond known, was found in South Africa three or four years ago. It was in the form of half a peddle and has been reduced by cutting from 169 1/2 carats to 66 carats weight, and Mr. Streeter has now secured the other half, which was found quite recently.

All these discoveries seem to militate against the generally received opinion as to the origin of these remarkable mines. As is pretty widely known, the diamond mines of South Africa, situated chiefly in Griqualand West, consist of large depressions, filled with earth, varying in color from yellow to gray and blue, which is described as a tough, dry mud of volcanic origin, sometimes hardened into rock. This mud, or blue, as it is technically called, is known in a basin of rock geologically known as pipe, which is supposed to be a crater of an extinct volcano, into which the mud has been injected from below. The four principal pipes or mines lie within a radius of a few miles and are known as Kimberley, De Beers, Dutoitspan and Bullfontein. The general features of all are alike. In each the upper part of the soil is yellow, changing at from 30 to 100 feet from the surface to a blue ground of greater density. The diamonds were first discovered in the yellow earth, and when the miners had cleared that out they imagined that they had come to the end of the diamonds, but it was soon found that they were even more abundant in the blue ground, and since that time the mines have been carried down to 500 and 800 feet without any diminution in the yield. On the contrary, the deeper the excavations are carried the better appears the output.

The blue, when excavated, is carried up and spread on the ground, where it lies for months, to be disintegrated by air and water and is then washed and picked over carefully by hand to find the diamonds. Scattered through the blue earth are not only diamonds, but a great variety of crystals, agates, iron pyrites and other minerals, among which Mr. A. A. Anderson, the traveler, believes he found many well worked flint implements from different depths, and Mr. M. E. Barber as early as 1871 reported the discovery of many worn and perfect flint implements at Colesberg Kopje, in diamondiferous soil from considerable depths, which, if confirmed, would add another to the many puzzles connected with the diamond mines, especially if the volcanic theory is to be maintained. Mr. Anderson, however, looks upon the blue ground as occupying the bed of an ancient lake, and that the diamonds, flint implements, fossil wood and other substances had been brought down by an ancient river, now represented by the Vaal, distant 12 miles or more, the bed of which at various points and the rocky banks on both sides are rich in diamonds, which he believes to be of the same nature as that which incloses the mines. Geologists generally incline to the volcanic theory, but believe that the diamonds are of an earlier date than the upheaval of the mud containing them from an enormous depth. It seems very hard to imagine a volcanic eruption of mud containing all the curious things found in the diamond mines, and especially the undisturbed ant's nest.

The great majority of South African diamonds are amorphous, cloudy, yellowish looking, scaly feeling masses, varying in size from a pin's head to a small pebble, but some are perfect octahedrons, white and very brilliant. These are, of course, the most valuable; and singular to relate, although these varieties occur in all the mines, yet the general characteristic of the stones, whether dull or brilliant, white or yellow, are sufficiently distinctive to enable an expert to say at a glance from which mine a diamond has come, the same holding good of Vaal river gems, and of those from Jagersfontein, in the Orange Free State.

Here, then, is another puzzle. How is it that gems so apparently similar, having presumably a common origin and embedded in the same matrix, have acquired varying characteristics? Dame Nature is an adept at hiding her secrets even from the prying eyes of scientists, for although the diamond mines of South Africa have been known and worked for more than 20 years scarcely anything has been added to our knowledge of the gem itself. The ancients called it adamant, and we still regard it as the hardest of all things, yet it can be cut in flakes by the dishonest jeweler, and is often found so cracked and flawed as to crumble to pieces untouched. Nevertheless the splinters will pierce the hardest rock, and even when reduced to the finest powder will cut and polish all other gems.—Chambers' Journal.

A Household Treasure. D. W. Fuller, of Censjaharie, N. Y., says that he always keeps Dr. King's New Discovery in the house and his family has always found the very best results follow its use; that he would not be without it, if possible. Dr. L. D. Brown, druggist, kills, N. Y., says that Dr. King's New Discovery is undoubtedly the best cough remedy that he has used in his family for eight years, and it has never failed to do all that is claimed for it. Why not see a remedy so long tried and tested. Trial bottles free at Parthen-D'Achuel Drug Co. Regular size 50c and \$1.

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The light and medium shades in bengaline fayetta and French cashmere are exquisite this season.

The leading colors for spring capes for general wear are black, green, the darker browns and a rich deep shade of blue.

Oriental laces of very fine mesh and extra quality in white and butter shades will be in great use for trimming summer dresses.

Modistes are making constant use of soft finished satins for daytime toilets, made wholly of the satin or combined with lace.

Rhinestone ornaments of every shape and size are extensively used upon luncheon hats, bonnets, toques and evening toilets sent from Paris.

Tailor made shirt waists of pink linen, embroidered pique and fancy cotton fabrics are displayed among other premature novelties of the spring season.

Lenzen goods of soft friar's gray bengaline, camel's hair or sacking have skirts with plainly gored fronts and organ plaited back breadths that just escape the ground.

Notwithstanding the popularity of the blouse bodice and the pointed corsage with applied trimmings at the lower edge, the round waist, in ever varying forms, will remain in favor.

Merchants just now are making a specialty of black, cream and coral net top laces in Bourdon, Chantilly, Spanish, guipure and various point designs, in edgings and insertions of all widths.

English serge, sacking in Persian mixtures and crepons of heavy grade are made into inexpensive street gowns for spring by adding basque pieces, epaulettes, revers or bertha and crush collar of velvet.—New York Post.

Trace the Nerves. Sedatives and opiates won't do it. These nerves do not make the nerves strong, and failing to do this, fall short of producing the essential of their quietude—vigor.

And while in extreme cases—and these only—of nervous exhaustion such drugs may be advisable, their frequent use is highly prejudicial to the delicate organism upon which they act and in order to renew their quieting effect increased and dangerous doses eventually become necessary.

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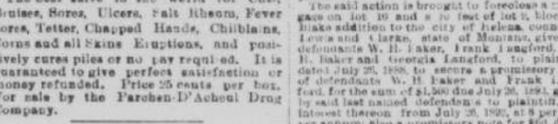
Buckley's Arnica Salve. The efforts of commonguise persons to "talk shop" with geniuses are often very absurd. "Professor Tyndall," suddenly said a society woman seated next to him at dinner, "what is your theory of the universe?" "My dear madam," he replied, "I have not even a theory of magnetism, much less of the universe."—New York Times.

Photographs. Unidentified photographs of undistinguished persons commonly help to make up the stock of the secondhand bookshops. These things sell at from 2 1/2 to 5 cents each, and one bookseller conjectures that they are bought to fill up blanks in family albums. An occasional photograph of a handsome man or woman fetches a higher price.—New York News.

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MONTANA BROWN BREAD.

One pint corn meal, one pint Graham flour, one and a half pints sour milk (sweet will do), half pint dark molasses, one teaspoon salt, one and a half teaspoons soda, steam three or four hours. Can be steamed over any time. MARIAM D. COOPER, Alternate Lady Manager World's Fair, Bozeman, Mont.

TENNESSEE CORN CAKES.

One pint corn meal, one egg, one spoon cooked hominy, a little salt, half teaspoon soda; add buttermilk to make rather thin batter, bake in moderate oven. MRS. B. W. BARNWELL, Sawanee, Tenn.

EGG OMELET, A LA NEVADA.

Yolks of two eggs beaten until light colored and thick, two tablespoons milk, one salt spoon salt, one-quarter salt spoon pepper. Beat the whites until stiff, cut and fold them lightly into the yolks until covered. Put one teaspoon butter into clean pan, when hot quickly pour in mixture, when brown set in oven a moment to let top dry. MRS. GOV. COLCORD, Carson City, Nev.

TO TELL GOOD EGGS.

Put them in water, if the big end turns up they are not fresh. This is an infallible rule to distinguish a good egg from a bad one.

BANANAS IN CREAM.

Make with boiling water one quart of strong lemonade, using only the juice of the lemons; soak half box gelatine one hour in a small cup of cold water, stir it into the boiling lemonade and set where it will cool but not harden; cut three bananas lengthwise in halves and lay them in a mold wet with cold water, cover with half the jelly and set mold on ice till jelly is set, then slice three more and pour on remainder of jelly. Serve with cream or soft mustard. MRS. ELIZA D. RICKARDS, Lady Manager World's Fair, Butte City, Mont.

MONTANA ICE CREAM.

One quart cream seasoned and whipped. When partly frozen add whites of four eggs well beaten. CLARA L. McADOW, Lady Manager World's Fair, Helena, Mont.

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