

PEARLS OF AMERICA.

A GEM EXPERT TALKS ABOUT THEM INTERESTINGLY.

The Right Way to Take Them—The Indians' Valuation—Famous American Pearls—Pearl Growing for Profit.

Numerous items have recently appeared in the press concerning the pearls of the Sugar River, Wisconsin, which have not all been without foundation, since some parcels have been sent to New York which were worth from a few dollars to over one thousand dollars a parcel.

A large pearl found by Daniel Howells at Northbrook, N. J., in 1856, which Messrs. Tiffany & Co. sold to the Empress Eugenie for \$2,500, led to a pearl excitement at that time which resulted in the raking of the brooks throughout the entire United States.

In 1857 fully \$15,000 worth of pearls were found in New York; in 1858-59 and 1860 only about \$2,000 worth. The excitement abated until 1868, when there was a slight revival.

The pearls found in the American unios are rarely perfectly round, often button shaped, that is, flat on one side. Many are very irregular in form, occasionally assuming fantastic shapes, as fishes, birds' wings, heads of animals, etc., and others are too irregular to be of any use whatever.

In certain countries pearl raising is a distinct profession. In Saxony this industry has been in the hands of the Schmeier family since 1646, and a correct record has been kept of every pearl that has been obtained, as well as the name of the man who found it.

It may be said of postage stamps, what cannot be said of many articles of vertu and bric-a-brac, that a good collection is a sound investment for money, for while pictures, china and other things are subject to fanciful changes of price, the marketable value of rare stamps is determined, and must increase with the flux of time.

A study of the comparative prices of rare stamps to-day with the prices they fetched a few years ago would lead to this conclusion. Stamps, by the nature of such things, are always increasing in value, and specimens which were common enough ten years ago are now not easy to obtain, and as they become rarer and rarer it is natural they should also become dearer.

A famous collector who is collecting English stamps has an exclusively English collection that is worth in the open market \$50,000. This sum would be realized if the collection were "broken up" and sold piecemeal, and there are several collections in this country which range in value from \$10,000 to \$350,000.

On the California coast the Haliotis or Abalone ear shell is much sought for by the Chinese for food and bait. Thirty-five thousand dollars worth of the shells have been sent to China, and \$175,000 worth of shells have been sent to England and China in one year for the manufacture of buttons, eight cents per pound being paid for them.

Dr. Daniel G. Brinton, archaeologist in a letter to Dr. A. C. Rau, of the Smithsonian Institute, says that when he was a surgeon in the Army of the Cumberland during the Civil war, the mussels of the Columbia River were occasionally eaten by the soldiers of the corps and pronounced to be no bad diet; and also that the shells of the unio were found in the Indian graves, showing that the mollusks had been placed there to serve as food during the journey to the "land of the spirits."

NEWS AND NOTES FOR WOMEN.

The long wraps imported this season for evening wear are described as being the most elegant ever sent out from Paris.

Chenille fringes and trimmings are increasing in variety. When used in black upon colored woollens the effect is very pretty.

Little Princess Wilhelmina, heir to the Dutch throne, has mastered Dutch and German and is now diligently studying French.

Threads of bronze and copper even about the rubber gas tube give that part of a drop lamp a decidedly snake-like appearance.

Turbans, toques and small bonnets promise to be more extensively worn than large hats, notwithstanding early predictions to the contrary.

An unusual wedding ceremony occurred not long ago in Dublin, where a well-known artist was married to his second wife by a clergyman who was his son by his first wife.

One of the daintiest devices in stationery this season is a pretty note paper in shades of richest mazarine, cream, opaline, silver gray and the inner tint of a pale pink rose petal.

Lady Sandhurst, upon whom the freedom of the city of Dublin was conferred, is said to be the first woman upon whom that honor has been bestowed for 300 years.

Long mantles of the Russian type, with plain loose coat sleeves under the long hanging sleeves, are the models most frequently shown in the cloak departments of the leading houses.

Brownish reds and ruddy browns in all shades are beautifully combined with pale blue, rose, water green, and cream white for the fronts of dressy tea gowns and morning wrappers.

The favorite cut for a velvet sleeve is after the leg o' mutton, wrinkled above the elbow and nearly tight below, with six small buttons and loops of braid on the inside seam of the wrist.

In a school for young women, not far from Philadelphia, it was a rule some years ago that every young lady must, before retiring, give her hair one hundred good strokes with the brush.

Queen Olga, of Greece, is particularly fond of American literature. She is a constant reader of the principal American magazines and newspapers.

The triple Carrick or "four-in-hand" cape is in high favor with ladies who handle the reins themselves. The favorite color for it is a dark navy blue, and a turban or small toque of felt of the same color is worn with it.

Some fancy jackets of sealskin have vests of natural seal, leopard or white lambskin, with revers of seal, and others have caps of Persian lamb, which begin at the top of the sleeve and fall in tabs down the front below the waist.

Queen Victoria is very fond of Scotch articles of diet. She likes oatmeal in every form, and eats it for breakfast and dinner.

Madame Carnot's dinners are said to be perfect, and the French President has established the custom of entering the dining hall at the hour mentioned for dinner.

"Mrs. Kate Chase," says a Washington letter, "is still as brilliant in conversation, as charming in manners and exquisitely cultivated as in the old days which she was the proud daughter of the Chief Justice of the United States, the unrivaled queen of Washington society."

Bonnets for little girls from one to three years are of velvet, matching the cloak in color. The large crowns and fronts are all in one piece, laid in plaits toward the front, and finished with plaited silk around the face, with inside caps of lace footing and white baby ribbon.

A convenient little article to wear over a garment of cloth or silk, not fur trimmed, is a pelorine of astrachan, with points to go between the shoulders and over the bust about half the length of the waist, and finished with a high open collar, which allows free movement of the head.

Buy a silver bread platter with a snake design running along the edge, spread it with a doyle of drawn linen, put a loaf of crusty bread on it, have the butter pass it round the table, and the manner in which your guest breaks off a piece will be a measure for judging of his high breeding.

Dove or quaker gray is the most reasonable and also the most becoming shade of this most trying color. It combines well with Effel, pale rose, blue, water green, canary yellow, flamingo red, and other shades of bright and positive color, with cream, pure white, black, silver and gold, copper and steel.

For all heavy plaids and stuffs the English skirt is selected. There are three breadths or full gores, with a perfectly plain front and sides, barring the few folds taken on each side, and all the fullness massed in the middle of the back and laid pleat upon pleat.

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Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence, this 6th day of December, A. D. 1886.



Good for every woman's need. Whatsoever her clime or creed. English, Yankee, Turk, or Swede. Moslem, Spanish or Egyptian. Known in every land and tongue. Friend to women, old and young. Round the world its praise is sung. "Pierce's Favorite Prescription."

Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription is a legitimate medicine, not a beverage; carefully compounded by an experienced physician, and adapted to woman's delicate organization. It is purely vegetable in composition and perfectly harmless in any condition of the system. Contains no alcohol to inebriate; no syrup or sugar to ferment in the stomach and derange digestion.

As an invigorating tonic, it imparts strength to the whole system. For overworked, "worn-out," "run-down," debilitated teachers, milliners, dressmakers, seamstresses, "shop-girls," housekeepers, nursing mothers, and feeble women generally, Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription is the greatest earthly boon; being unequalled as an appetizing cordial and restorative tonic.