

MOCK GEMS.

Art is made to rival nature in many ways, and in no instance more remarkably than in the imitation of all kinds of gems. This form of industry is now practised in almost every country of Europe, but probably to a greater extent in Paris than anywhere else. Great is the demand for false diamonds alone, and correspondingly great is the supply. We have spoken before in these columns of the successful imitation of these—the most admired of all jewels—to such a degree that the manufactured article shines with a brilliancy as if it had been struck from the rock of Golconda. These imitations were the subject of a recent article in a London journal. There are many processes, but all result in the production of what is called crystal water, which, hardened and cut, is a perfect counterfeit. Worn it may be by a young lady at her first ball, and dazzling all eyes by its scintillations, it is not known by them to be a composition of white sand, treated with hydrochloric acid, calcined potash, borax and arsenic. Add to the paste, which is the basis of this, a little oxide of cobalt, and we have the fac-similes of a great-grandmother's prized collection of sapphires. Or mix with the colorless material a little antimony and purple cassius, and there is a topaz before us. Would we obtain the emerald, the bride of diamonds, as it has been called in the language of the East, we have but to add in their stead some oxide of copper.

Of artificial pearls there are several varieties. The Japanese make theirs of rice paste, which is better known as Japanese cement, and is harder than marble. The Roman pearls are chiefly made of fish scales heated with the finest spirits of wine, and the manufacture must be carried on in highly heated rooms, but they are as light as wax and cannot possibly deceive. The Turkish rose pearls do not deserve the name, they are in fact made of roses. The leaves are heaped in a mortar having a very highly polished inner surface and pounded into a soft mass; this is dried in the sun, but not rapidly, for rose-water of the very best perfume is sprinkled over the pink paste now and then, the damping and drying are repeated, and the pearls so called are moulded in a form, polished, steeped in oil of roses and polished again, so that they are lustrous and sweet scented. Some are tinted blue, others are odorous of storax and musk, a few, and they are the most difficult to perfect, are black.—Philadelphia Ledger.

VALUE OF PERSONAL NEATNESS.—Many worthy women who would not for the world be found wanting in the manner of personal neatness, seem somehow to have the notion that any study of the arts of personal duty in family life is unmatronly. They buy their clothes with simple reference to economy, and have them made up without any question of becomingness; and hence marriage sometimes transforms a charming, trim, tripping young lady into a waddling matron, whose every day toilet suggests only the idea of a feather bed tied round with a string. For my part I do not believe that the summary banishment of the graces from the domestic circle as soon as the baby makes his appearance, is at all conducive to domestic affection. Nor do I think that there is any need of so doing. These good housewives are in danger, like other saints, of falling into the error of neglecting the body through too much thoughtfulness for others, and too little for themselves. If a woman ever has any attractiveness, let her try and keep it, setting it down as one of her domestic talents.

GROWING OLD.—It seems but a summer since we looked forward with eager hope to the coming years. And now we are looking sadly back. Not that the dream has passed, but that it has been of no worth to those around us. As the glowing hopes and ambitions of early life pass away; as friend after friend departs, and the stronger ties which hold us here are broken, our life seems but a bubble, glancing for a moment in the light, and then broken, and not a ripple left upon the stream. Forty years once seemed a long, weary pilgrimage to tread. It now seems but a step. And yet along the way are broken shrines where a thousand hopes have wasted into ashes; footprints, sacred under their drifting of dust; green mounds whose grass is fresh with the watering of tears; shadow, even, which we would not forget. We will garner the sunshine of those years, and with chastened step and hopes, push on toward the evening, whose signal lights will soon be seen swinging where the waters are still and the storms never beat. T. W. Brown.

POOR MEN'S DINNERS.—The city of Glasgow, says the London Herald, is favored with the famous 'cooking depots' managed by Mr. Corbett. At meal times the men swarm into these depots by hundreds. First of all comes soup or broth, exceedingly good. The second course is a plate of meat or 'collops,' the latter a favorite Scotch dish. With this the dinner has other slices of bread or potatoes, enough to satisfy him under ordinary circumstances for two days. If content with a 'fourpenny,' the meal would now be at an end, but the 'fivepenny' includes 'dessert' in the shape of a slice of plum pudding or rice pudding, with milk and sugar. No intoxicating drinks are to be had on the premises, but water is furnished *ad libitum*, and ginger beer and lemonade can be purchased at a penny a bottle. For breakfast, porridge can be had at a penny, and a good allowance of milk at a halfpenny. Some have 'two goes,' and so expend threepence on their breakfast. Porridge, milk, coffee and bread and butter, can all be indulged in for the total charge of threepence-halfpenny.

There is not a mote that dances in the sun beam, not a particle of dust that we tread heedlessly under our feet, that does not contain within its form mines of knowledge yet unworked. For if we could read them rightly, all the records of the animated past are written in the rocks and the dust of the present.

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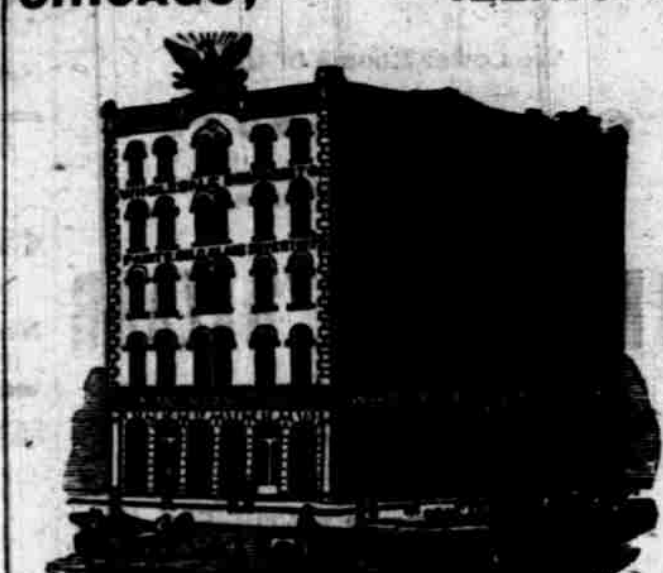
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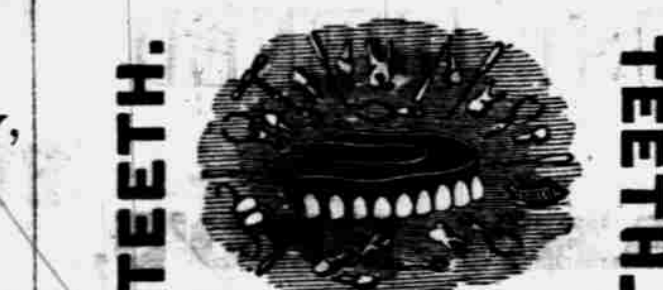
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