

MINING FOR OPALS.

Where the Richest Deposits Are at Present Located.

Formerly Tabooed Gem Now Held in High Esteem by Many—Interesting Facts Regarding the Beautiful Stone.

Although the opal is generally regarded as an unlucky gem, it is valued very highly by some. Up to a few years ago these gems were not plentiful, but recently mines have been developed in various parts of the world from which some exceedingly valuable specimens have been obtained.

The richest of these mines are situated in Queensland and New South Wales, Australia. In the latter state the commoner kinds are found in many localities, especially in the neighborhood of Orange, but they possess little or no commercial value.

Prospecting for precious opal is a decidedly hazardous business, because, as a rule, there are no indications whatever on the surface of the occurrence of the mineral below. It is only in rare instances that an outcrop of the gem can be seen and the usual procedure is to dig a trench or pit in such a position as fancy may dictate and trust to luck.

According to an authority quoted by Mr. Pittman there is a wonderful variety of opal found on the field and the prices paid locally run up to \$125 an ounce, the once being the unit for buying in the rough. It is rarely that the price paid exceeds \$100 an ounce.

In valuing opal a good many points have to be taken into account. Color is the first—red, orange, or red is combination with yellow, blue and green being the best.

A MODERN UNA.

How a Young Woman Can Get a Day's Entertainment in New York for Ten Cents.

Elliot Gregory, writing in Century, tells how young women of a certain type can find entertainment for a whole day in New York, without spending more than a dime.

Our land is like Ireland of old, when the virgin Una, clothed in white and carrying a golden wand in her hand, walked unharmed through the island. Nothing, it must be confessed, can be finer.

My bachelor quarters are occasionally visited by a modern Una who is such an American product that I cannot refrain from describing, for the benefit of my readers, the existence she has arranged for herself and the ingenious methods by which she enjoys freedom from all cares, and gets a taste of life without exceeding her meager allowance.

The girl, who is of spotless respectability, lives with a widowed aunt in a tiny apartment somewhere in the upper part of the town, from which altitude she descends arrayed in dazzling garb, on most fair mornings, in pursuit of her day's sport.

Another favorite amusement is being photographed when it does not cost anything. In consequence the walls of half the amateur studios in town are graced with presentations of her dainty figure.

BLUE POINT OYSTERS.

Some Interesting Facts About These Aristocratic of the Bivalve Family.

A newborn oyster is a tiny fleck of creamy substance, not much larger than the point of a pin. Its advent in countless numbers from the middle of July to the middle of August is to the oysterman of Connecticut, where are located probably the largest seed oyster plants in the world.

The Long Island Sound has some peculiarity of the water which renders it especially favorable for the raising of the choicest and most widely sought oysters. Not only are here located thousands of oyster plantations, but also immense natural oyster beds.

One of the light bearers is Ling-phynne lucifer, a truly demonic form. On the top of his head he carries an apparatus that is identical in shape with the common light bulb of our ordinary small electric lamps.

THE MAD KING OTHO.

Reported That He Has Regained Reason After Twenty-Five Years of Blindness.

In the well-informed circles of Munich it is understood that King Otho, confined in the castle of Fuerstenried as a madman, has recovered his reason after 25 years of insanity, says a translation from the Cri de Paris.

If his improvement continues it will be necessary to announce this to the Bavarian chambers of lords and of deputies, and to declare the king able to reign and bring to an end the regency of his uncle, the prince regent, Luitpold.

It is nobody's secret that Louis II. and his brother Otho were bitter opponents of the dominance of Prussia, and that the government at Berlin was not a stranger to the events of June, 1886; also the sudden and mysterious death of Louis II.

WATER AND ELECTRICITY.

Industrial Revolution—See Growth in Many Southern States by the Combination.

The Electrical Review returns to the topic of utilizing the water powers of the Piedmont section of the south, where powers remote from the railroads and towns might be converted into electricity and taken where they would do the most good.

In the last ten years, says the Review, "the entire industrial status of Georgia and South Carolina has been changed by the rapid extension of manufacturing industries in those states, due almost wholly to the utilization of water powers and very largely to electrical transmission.

Such utilization of water powers is the great feature of industrial progress in many countries at the present time, says the Baltimore Sun. Switzerland, Scotland, Wales, and even India obtain electricity largely from remote streams for lighting and manufacturing purposes in the cities.

Had Thing to Meet. The last faintest filtering of light from above disappears totally at a depth of less than 2,000 feet. Beyond that there is eternal night.

Cholly—I love your daughter! Paerfamilias—But you can't live on that! "Aw, no! But then there's your love, too, you know!"—Puck.

FOR FASHION'S FOLLOWERS.

Autumn and Early Winter Gowns, Waists, Coques and Other Finery.

The shirt waists of French flannel, challi, cloth, cashmere, and albatross, that have taken the place of the thinner styles, show tucks in groups and tiny buttons as trimming.

Some of the newest of the autumn gowns of velvet or satin-finished cloth are distinguished for their simplicity, which is certainly an interesting feature of fashion, when such elaborately-trimmed models greet one on every side.

Some of the small frocks, however, are not made low and sleeveless, although all have the extreme of long waists, if they boast, in any degree, of fashion.

HOUSEWIFE SUGGESTIONS.

A Variety of Information Gleaned from Some of the Best Authorities.

To keep cheese moist and prevent its molding wrap it in cloth wet with cider vinegar. Isinglass is sometimes adulterated with gelatin.

Condensed milk is milk deprived of nearly all its water, and with cane sugar added. It is perfectly wholesome, excepting in cases where sugar cannot be allowed.

Never buy very cheap granite ware; it is a delusion and a snare. Such a sauceman will burn and crack the second time you use it.

Apple Salad. Pare and core tart, tender apples, spread each piece with a mayonnaise-tinted delicate green; arrange on a bed of green salad.

Half and Half. Small Boy (summing in the country)—Oh, papa, did you know they didn't pump the milk out of a well? Father (recalling the blue milk of the city)—Um—er—er—I guess I only about half knew it, my son.—Judge.

MODES FOR LITTLE FOLK.

Some of the Later Garments Show a Return to the Styles of Twenty-Five Years Ago.

One hardly thinks of children's fashions as having any well-defined relation to those of their elders, yet it is noticeable that the long waist effects have returned, much as they appear in pictures of little ones that were taken 25 years ago.

Some exquisite little frocks—for, be it observed, the old-fashioned English word is again in favor among fashionable folk—are to be found in the high-class shops, daintily made entirely by hand.

Another fascinating instance is of cobwebby muscoto, with waist gathered above and below in true "bebe" fashion, and made quite as long as that previously described.

For infants two years old or less the yoke with skirt attached is still the accepted mode, but boy babies are sometimes put into Russian blouses even before they reach that advanced age.

A cosack suit for boys of the same ages is made of dark red serge, has long waist and a short plaited skirt, a standing collar, three plaits in the back and is worn with a belt.

Overcoats are extremely jaunty in varied styles. The Russian, the United States service, the military cape overcoat, the automobile and the refer are equally in favor.

Netting Padding. One cupful of chopped suet, one cupful of chopped raisins, one cupful of molasses, one cupful of sweet milk, one nutmeg grated, two teaspoonfuls of baking powder well sifted into three cupfuls of flour; steam two hours.

Nothing But Leaves. Mr. Snaggs—The leaves are leaving, my dear. Mrs. Snaggs—Is there anything odd about that? "Yes, in the spring time it was the trees that were leaving."—Pittsburg Chronicle-Telegraph.

PERSONAL AND LITERARY.

Edmund Gosse is about to publish a humorous work in which the gods of Olympus are to be introduced discussing modern life.

The czar of Russia is a confirmed cigarette smoker. He rolls his own cigarettes from tobacco especially imported for him from Syria.

A German correspondent at Shanghai writes that the official historian of the Chinese empire, Wang Weashee, has written an account of the recent troubles. It will, however, be stored away for a long time in an iron box.

Rudyard Kipling's "Kim" cost him more work than any of his previous books. Some of the sections were rewritten a dozen times and then changed or perhaps cut altogether.

In a chatty address in Toronto the other day, Prof. Goldwin Smith said: "As professor of history at Oxford I had one interesting and delightful pupil—our present king. While he was at Oxford I used to lecture to him privately on history, and afterward had to go and examine him. He never allowed me to see that he was bored, and the king who could be bored by a professor without showing that he was bored should be quite able to listen to a municipal address."

HUMAN MONKEYS OF JAVA.

Prof. Haeckel's Description of the Ways of a Very Intelligent Species.

Prof. Haeckel's latest publication contains some curious information about the human monkey of Java. A most interesting specimen of the young gibbon was watched by Prof. Haeckel at his own house in Java.

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Severely Practical. "Have you ever done anything which you think ought to command the gratitude of posterity?" asked the friend. "Now, what's the use of taking up my time with such questions as that?" said Senator Sorghum, visibly annoyed.

The Worm and the Bird. The worm should turn in before the early bird turns out.—Chicago Daily News.

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