

## JEWELS OF ROYALTY.

### AMERICANS COMING TO FRONT WITH COLLECTIONS.

Mrs. Mackey's 4,000 Pearls—The Duchess of Marlborough's Collection—Queen Alexandra's Three Favorite Jewels.

Of her personal jewels, next to her wedding ring, the late Queen Victoria most valued an insignificant enamel ring, set with a single diamond, given to her by Prince Albert when she was yet a child, and his betrothal ring, a snake set with the finest emeralds.

These three rings were never removed from her hand and were buried with her. Much treasured, too, was the bracelet she always wore, composed of a numerous array of small golden hearts, each with a minute miniature of one of her grandchildren or great-grandchildren.

Queen Alexandra, in addition to a safe of diamonds and pearls, owns some wonderful gems—rubies, sapphires and emeralds—which, however, she rarely wears. The only colored stones she really likes are amethysts, and these she has given, at Christmas and on her fete days, to her friends and relatives in such numbers, set in scarf pins, bangles, chains hat pins and sunshade tops, that she has quite popularized the stone, hitherto little valued in England. With dresses of her favorite color, mauve, the Queen always wears amethysts.

The jewels she values above all are her engagement ring, set with a beryl, emerald, ruby, topaz, jacinth, emerald—the first letters of which spell out the name by which she has always called her husband, "Bertie," the beautiful diamond cross given to her by the women of Denmark on her marriage, and the crown of brilliants, set in silver, bestowed by the women of England on her silver wedding day.

The most splendid jewels Queen Alexandra possesses are undoubtedly her pearls. She has ropes and ropes of them, high dog collars and pearls set in trimmings for the corsage of her ball dresses. These have been collected and given to her by the Czar and her sister, the Dowager Empress of Russia, as well as by members of the English, Danish and German royal families, many being old heirlooms.

The Queen's pearls are surpassed only by the young Duchess of Marlborough's historic collection. This includes some of the most interesting pearls in existence, the pearls that belonged to the ill-fated Marie Antoinette, which were bought by Mr. Vanderbilt for his daughter as a marriage gift. Each pearl in the young Duchess's necklace is immensely long one is valued at \$1,000, and she sometimes wears the ropes wound twice around her neck and twice around her waist.

I hope I am divulging no state secret, says a writer in the Grand Magazine. If I state that before Queen Alexandra went last season to dine with the Duchess at Sutherland House, the beautiful home of the Marlboroughs in Grosvenor Street, she asked her youthful Grace to "put on all her pearls," just for once, "for then I will wear mine," laughed the Queen. "Alas, I never will do so," which has the larger number. "And they did, like two schoolgirls," the Duchess was the winner by two.

Among the finest black pearls known are those worn by the Duchess of Holland House, which it took Napoleon III, ten years to collect, in all parts of the world for the Empress Eugenie.

What is said to be the most valuable single necklace of pearls is owned by Countess Henckel of Paris. She has also a triple necklace of pearls of especial interest.

The first string was the so-called "Necklace of the Virgin of Atokha"; the second was once the property of the ex-Queen of Naples; the third was worn by the Empress Eugenie on the occasions.

This last string contains the great pearl found in Paterson forty-eight years ago. This pearl, if it had not been balled before the shell was opened, would be the finest and largest gem of modern times.

Mrs. Mackey is said to have the largest number of pearls of any living woman. There are almost 4,000 of them. One pearl rope belonging to her measures 9 feet in length, each pearl being the size of a pea and perfectly matched.

### Do You Know?

Do you know that six or eight stewed prunes eaten half an hour before breakfast will act as a laxative, whereas double the number eaten with or after a meal may have no aperient effect at all?

Do you know that many people who try the experiment of dining on fruit alone have, after a few weeks, to consult the doctor as to how to cure their dyspepsia?

### Care of Matting.

Matting never should be subjected to an overpouring of water. Care should be exercised toward keeping it unstained. When it becomes soiled, however, use a soft cloth well wrung out in a suds made of borax soap and water, and air thoroughly by leaving a window open until the spot is dried. Dampness must be removed from matting as speedily as possible. Use a pilable, not too stiff, broom for matting. Always sweep well first any flooring or floor covering which may be spotted or soiled and needs a damp application.

## PIECWORK IN GERMANY.

### Shocking Poverty Revealed in Displays at a Recent Exhibit.

Consul Hurst, of Plauen, places in the same category with the incredibly small compensation received for making lace by hand the exhibits at a house industry exposition recently opened in Berlin. Of it he writes that everything one naturally connects with a great fair is strikingly absent. The products of toment and sweat shop, small piece-work evolved by the needy, are laid bare to the public. Each exhibit is ticketed, setting forth the pay for piece, time employed in making and the profit per hour. If the object itself does not particularly attract the attention of the visitor, the description tag certainly appeals to him. A few examples may be given: A boy's suit of clothes, three pieces, made for about 17 cents; artistic wooden crucifixes, carved at less than 2 cents an hour; 144 toy menagerie animals for 11 cents, putting up 1,000 needles for less than one cent for the lot, mounting hooks and eyes on 360 cards, with 24 pairs of each, altogether 17,280 pieces, for 28 cents, and an extreme case is that of a bit of lace from Plauen worked at the rate of about one-quarter of a cent an hour. Progress and poverty are nowhere more abruptly contrasted than in this pitiful display. Expressions of amazement and sympathy, manifested by the highest classes of society, are echoed throughout the German press.—Washington Star.

### Honesty in Apples.

The Canadian government is trying to prevent shortsighted Canadian exporters from making the mistake of misrepresenting the fruit they send to English markets. It is reported that some wholesale dealers in apples have falsely marked inferior shipments of fruit to England, and that the practice of "facing up" barrels and cases of apples with fine fruit, putting inferior apples in the center of the barrels and then branding them as first quality, has been frequent. To check this the Canadian authorities have imposed heavy fines in each case in which conviction was procured. The American exporters have lost markets by the same shortsighted methods, and it will be well if they profit by these energetic methods taken by the Canadian authorities. A market once lost by misrepresentation is more difficult to regain than to establish a new market.

### "Alpine" Plants in America.

The Alpine plant worth growing in America are chiefly hardy perennial herbs that make tufts or rosettes or carpet the ground with a continuous sheet of flowers, says the Garden Magazine. Examples are the famous gentians, pinks and primroses of Switzerland. These plants are not confined to the European Alps, but come from all high mountains and, therefore, in horticultural literature, the word "alpine" has become so generalized that it is no longer capitalized. Unfortunately some of the choicest alpine plants can be grown only in a cool rocky, where they can have cool air, plenty of light, but without shade, with constant moisture but perfect drainage. Yet there are plenty that can be grown in the ordinary garden, which are able to withstand alternate freezing and thawing of American winters.

### Paddy Bird.

One of the best known of feathered creatures in India is the paddy bird. A traveler says of him: "The paddy bird is not afflicted with shyness. He is far too lazy to be disturbed by the approach of human beings. So confident is he that the catness of India will blind the bird's eye. I once saw one of these birds standing motionless at the water's edge within ten feet of a grunting, perspiring washerwoman, who was washing some clothes to pieces against a stone in a dirty duckpond. That is the way washing is done in India. Neither individual took the least notice of the other."

### Radium's Great Power.

At a recent meeting of the Practitioners' Society Dr. Robert Abbe showed, in order to illustrate the penetrative power of radium, a photographic plate upon which a revolver had been photographed by a single grain of radium. The cartridge with which the revolver was loaded and the internal mechanism of the revolver were clearly seen in the photograph, demonstrating that the rays had penetrated the steel.

### Care of the Eyes.

One of the melancholy effects of working by artificial light is that it fades the eyes. Instances have been known, it is said, of deep blue eyes becoming light gray from prolonged work at night with no protection from the glare of the gas. Fortunately it is not impossible to restore by proper care and medical treatment some at least of the brightness of the eyes when it has been lost.

### Diagnosis of Headache.

"There are more than fifty kinds of headache," said a physician, "and sufferers from the more common forms may cure themselves accordingly. The more frequent forms are a dull pain across the forehead, due to dyspepsia; a pain in the back of the head, due to the liver; a bursting pain in both temples, due to malnutrition; an ache on the top of the head, as though a weight pressed on the skull, due to overwork; an ache between the brows, just above the base of the nose, due to eye strain."

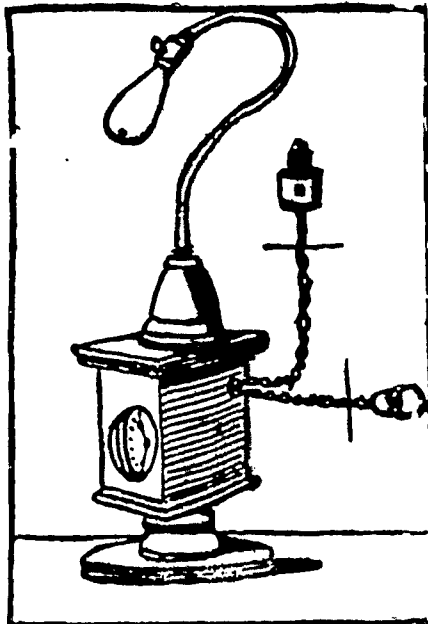
## TRAINING A CHILD'S HAIR.

### With Care and Patience It May be Made to Curl.

Straight hair is certainly not becoming to small children, however pretty the color may be, and nurses may be excused if they resort to fair means so as to induce a natural curl in babyhood. It has often been noticed that where a little care has been taken to foster an inclination toward wavy hair in earliest youth this has resulted in a becoming growth in later years, and by means of brushing and washing the head in the correct fashion, much may be done to encourage a tendency to curl when the child is young. A baby's hair should always be brushed upwards instead of downwards, and, as each lock is treated, it should be given a little twist with the finger, this operation having a particularly good and lasting effect when the hair is damp. Persevered in daily, this will be found to work wonders, even in cases where the natural growth was perfectly straight, although it must be noted that, for the first week or two before the hair has become accustomed to the upward trend, the effect is hardly pleasing. One of the best shampoos for a child's hair, especially when long and thick, consists of a well-beaten egg made into a froth with hot water and rubbed into the roots of the hair. Borax and ammonia—especially the latter—should be sparingly used, ammonia in particular being inclined to damage the color and shimmer of fair hair, while it frequently causes it to become brittle and split at the ends. No curling fluids should ever be used for children's hair; but if too dry, a little brilliantine, rubbed well into the roots, will promote a healthy growth, and further induce a pretty wave and curl.

### Lights Automatically.

A resident of Georgia has invented a combined electric light and alarm clock, which is so arranged that the lamp will be automatically lighted when the alarm goes off. The light is of the electric incandescent variety and is suspended directly above the clock, the wires carrying the current connecting with the mechanism of the clock. A plunger rests on a



Alarm for sick room.

strong spring, which is held under tension by a trigger connected with the alarm mechanism. When the alarm is sounded the trigger is sprung by the current of the wires, and the lamp thus lighted. The current of this device when the alarm is set for some hour of the night or early morning will be appreciated. It is often desirable in the sick room that the attendant be wakened to administer medicine at certain hours of the night without disturbing the patient. In such cases the bell of the alarm can be muffled and the trained attendant can then depend on the sudden flash of light to awaken him at the proper time.

### HOUSEHOLD SUGGESTIONS.

If instead of spirits of camphor and borax used in cleaning furniture it will not only remove the white stains but restore the polish as well.

During damp weather salt crystals tend to become clogged on the inside of the holes. By placing a few kernels in each cellar and adding the salt last the delirium is better.

Washcloths of mosquito netting, and impracticable, but for genuine satisfaction in the using they are hard to excel. They are made of five or six thicknesses turned in and stitched with a long machine stitch, two inches from the edges, then diagonally from corner to corner.

Serve with a cup of tea to an afternoon caller, even as a part of the refreshment at a more formal tea, a slice of toasted pound cake. Melt butter and spread lightly over each slice. Place in a hot oven, toast to a delicate brown and serve piping hot. This dish originated, I believe, in France, and is sufficiently novel and delicious to be worthy of the most fastidious taste.

### What to Remember.

That the white of an egg applied quickly will relieve the stinging pain of a burn and prevent inflammation. That a poultice made of salt mixed with the white of an egg will stop the growth of a felon if applied as soon as the felon makes its appearance.

That spirits of camphor applied, as soon as tenderness or inflammation appears will often set back pimples on the face.

That an egg beaten with an ounce of water makes a good shampoo—one that is beneficial to the hair. Rinse in clear water after using.

## SOME FACTS ABOUT IVORY.

### Waste Product of One Manufacturer May Be of Value to Another.

One of the interesting sights of London is the ivory market where, during the periodical sales, the floors of the great warehouses are fairly covered with tusks of all sizes and qualities. There is absolutely no waste in the manufacture of articles from ivory, for the small shavings from billiard balls are used in making ivory. Therefore at an ivory sale not only whole tusks are disposed of, but various assortments of different sized pieces. The waste product of one manufacturer may be of the greatest value to another. The most valuable ivory is used for making billiard balls, and to be perfect a tusk must be absolutely sound and solid, without a suspicion of a flaw or crack, and must measure only a trifle more than the regulation billiard ball, otherwise it will cut to waste. As a preparation for the sale the floor the inside of the tusks is thoroughly cleaned by means of wads attached to long sticks. Thus the exact length of the hollow is shown and flaws that are not seen on the outside are often revealed. The increasing scarcity of ivory has brought about an increasing rise in the price. In thirty-five years the price per hundredweight has risen from \$250 to \$835. In bulk ivory averages about \$10,000 per ton.

### Why Caribou is a Good Swimmer.

Clad with a coat of oily wool next his skin, the caribou is covered exteriorly with a dense pelage of fine quills, says a writer in Scribner's Magazine.

Every caribou, indeed, wears a cork jacket, and when this is prime the creature seems on the water rather than in the water. No other quadruped that I know swims as high as the caribou.

Their speed afloat is so great that it takes the best of canoeists to overtake a vigorous buck. A good paddler is supposed to cover about six miles an hour, so the caribou probably goes five. There are many kinds of woodland and rough country over which the caribou cannot travel so fast as this.

What wonder, then, that they are so ready to take to the water as soon as they find it in their course. The writer says several times he saw caribou swim a broad bay that was in their line, though a trifling deflection would have given them easy walking along the shore to the same point, and with but little increase of distance.

### An Umbrella Exchange.

A company is now in process of formation in London which aims at supplying the public with umbrellas on loan on much the same principle as the circulating libraries of books with regard to books. That is to say, a subscriber will be able to drop large one of the company's depots when it rains to rain; secure an umbrella, and utilize it so long as the necessity to do so continues. When the weather clears, he can return it to the same depot, or to another one, and repeat the process as often as it suits his convenience. The depots will be established at restaurants, tobacconists' shops, public houses, etc. Of course, the umbrella will not be gold-mounted or covered with silk, but they will be good, serviceable and slightly articles. The charge to subscribers, it is said, will be only about one dollar a year.

### Girl Pickpockets in Paris.

Two tall, fair-haired British girls, who gave their names as Fanny Sodway and Mary Muldoon, were arrested in Paris recently while pickpocketing with the help of a most ingenious device attached to a parasol especially constructed for the purpose.

In the handle was a spring which acted on a pair of strong nippers concealed in the point of the ferrule. The girls held their parasols under their arms and by means of the spring would work the nippers to cut a watch chain. Then one of them would deftly pick the victim's pocket of his watch.

After being followed by a detective they were caught redhanded in the act of gracefully relieving a pedestrian of some personal effect.

### British Generals as Cooks.

It has been said of Gen. Sir Redvers Buller that he is such an excellent cook that he would have little difficulty in obtaining a first-class chef's position in a West End hotel. In his younger days, before he reached his high military rank, his brother officers used to say that Redvers Buller could make an appetizing dinner out of old saddles when rations were short on a campaign. Another distinguished soldier who shares with Gen. Buller a wonderful skill in the gastronomic art is Major-Gen. Baden-Powell.—London Tit-Bits.

### French Army Drum.

One of the principal reasons for the final abandonment of the drum in the French army is the new short-term service. It takes a year and a half to make a drummer, so that no sooner would the French drummer have become proficient than he would begin to get ready to return to civil life.

### Climate of Rome.

Gales are very rare in Rome and never blow with extreme violence. The most striking peculiarity of the Roman climate is the absence of high winds. The air is pure and clear owing to the almost complete absence of smoke, even in the winter months.

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