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WHY People Attach Value to "Bits of Stone"

What is the most valuable jewel? What effect has fashion on the price and cutting of gems? What stones need the most care? How should people take care of their jewels and will water harm them? How may a pearl be restored to its original luster and shape? These are questions often asked of experts, writes R. Clifford Black in an article in Popular Science Monthly in which he tells of a number of facts about jewels astonishing to the layman.

Just what causes people to attach such value to gems is one of the mysteries of human nature. Money has changed during the centuries, but the value of jewels has remained fairly constant. In times of uncertainty fortunes sometimes are saved by converting money into jewels.

Nine persons in ten, if asked to name the most valuable jewel, would say "diamond." The fact is, though, that in a table ranking gems in the order of their value, carat for carat, the diamond has fourth place. Both emeralds and rubies are much more valuable, while the pearl, because of the difficulty in matching, is far above all others.

Increased demands for precious stones and changes in the mode of dress influence both the price and cut of gems. At present the style is to cut in the square or emerald shape. Twenty-five years ago, when curves were fashionable, round jewels were most popular.

Pearls need far more care than any other gem, for they are an animal product and easily destroyed. The opal also requires great care. Made of silica and water, it is very fragile. It was probably because of this that the superstition of bad luck is associated with it.

Water as a rule does not injure precious stones. Diamonds, rubies and sapphires can pass through fire without injury. It is comparatively easy, though, to destroy both diamonds and emeralds. They will shatter to bits if struck sharply. Face powder is bad for pearls. It clogs up the pores of the pearl's skin, just as it does those of the human skin. One should never wear pearls when sleeping, either. At night the largest percentage of acid is thrown off the body and this dissolves the pearls.

Pearls are restored to their former luster and shape by a process known as peeling. A pearl is made in layers, like an onion, and these outer layers can be removed until the pearl has become round again. The peeling process is a most delicate task. It is done with the fingernails and a sharp knife, and only a few men in the world know how to do it.

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Farrell Weather by Watching the Birds

That birds are able to perform feats that are impossible to human beings has long been known to scientists, says Popular Mechanics Magazine. They have, for instance, a most marvelous sense of direction. This cannot be put down to memory, for young birds reared in England will go straight to the same African haunts to which their parents went weeks before them.

But it is as weather prophets that birds excel, according to an English naturalist. Swallows, martins and mistletoes, he says, will tell if the following day is to be fine. If they are flying really high, say, 500 to 1,000 feet above the ground, a whole week of sunshine may be expected. If they are only 50 feet high, the outlook is doubtful. But if they skim a few feet above the ground, rain is certain.

A tame raven invariably slept on the southwest porch of a home. Twice in two years it changed to the northwest side, and both times a terrific gale blew from the southwest. When a wood filled with singing birds is suddenly silenced a thunderstorm is usually due. If often is observed, too, that if migrating birds fly north instead of south late in fall a mild winter may be expected.

Early Days of the Fork

Letters and other documents dealing with manners and customs of daily life in the Seventeenth century in England which recently came to light tend to show that it was customary in those days for "persons of quality" to have sets of their own, spoons, knives and forks which they took with them when invited out. These papers are interesting just at this time especially to antique collectors for recently a two-tined fork made in 1682 was added to the British museum.

The extreme simplicity of the design suggests that it was an experimental implement. Which is not surprising considering the date, for English writers of the early years of the Seventeenth century describe with much curiosity the fashion of using a fork to eat with as a fashion newly introduced from Italy.

Generous Job

A Holyoke (Mass.) man in Worcester found that he had spent all his money, and began looking about for a chance to earn some. Seeing a group of men digging for the foundation of a new building, he asked the foreman if he could go to work. "Sure," said the foreman, "help yourself to a shovel." Picking up an idle shovel, the newcomer worked away for a couple of hours. Finally, when he paused for a rest, one of the men who was working beside him said: "I don't seem to know you—where do you live?" "I live in Holyoke," replied the newcomer. "What are you doing here?" asked the other. "All of us Worcester men are giving a day's work free to help build the new Presbyterian church."—Boston Globe.

Gained Lasting Fame as Builder of Roads

The first macadam road ever constructed was officially tested and approved in Scotland more than a century ago. The inventor was John Loudon Macadam, a native of Ayr, Scotland, where he was born in 1756. Macadam went to New York in 1770, entered his uncle's counting house, and became a successful merchant.

In 1783 he returned to Scotland and purchased a handsome estate. In 1810 Macadam began his experiments in highway construction which have made his name immortal.

The great road builder was thoroughly Scotch in his methods, and as he wanted nothing flashy, he investigated road building methods in a score of countries, traveling 30,000 miles.

The preliminary trials of "macadamizing" were so successful that in 1812 he was appointed surveyor to the Scotch Turnpike trust and renounced the mode there cheaply and well. The success of his experiments convinced him that he was doing a good thing, and he was voted general of metropolitan roads. He declined knightdom in 1820.

To Freshen Wall Paper

An ingenious way to freshen unpattered dingy wall paper is to get about a quart of flat ivory paint such as is used for interiors, and with a sponge dab it on the walls. This may be done in the original color of the paper or in a harmonizing tone. In the former case the use of the paint may be quite liberal, but in the latter care must be used not to get too dark an effect nor yet too gaudy a one. This method produces a stippled surface with a soft blur which is distinctly attractive.

Dangerous Knowledge

"I want a summons against my husband for threatening to throw me out," said a woman at Wilkesden, England.

"You can't have one," answered the magistrate. "It isn't an offense."

"Isn't it?" retorted the woman. "Then I'll go straight back and throw him out."

Why Nature Has Made Difference in Ankles

Why is an elephant's ankle so thick, and a mouse's so slender? The answer is bound up with the same facts that would make it impossible for a human giant 60 feet tall to take two steps without breaking both his legs. Explanations of some of the riddles of size and proportion in animals were set forth by Dr. J. B. S. Haldane, one of the most famous of English scientists, and author of the well known book of scientific prophecy, "Daedalus," addressing the British Association for the Advancement of Science.

The 60-foot giant imagined by Doc for Aldane would weigh about a thousand times as much as an ordinary man—say, ten tons—while the space on his thigh bone where muscles could be attached would be increased only a hundred times. The poor ogre would thus be vastly too heavy for his legs, and would infallibly collapse from sheer overweight. So that when we have a really heavy animal, like an elephant or a rhinoceros, he must have his bones and joints greatly thickened and strengthened to support his weight.—Science Service.

Why the Sea Is Blue

Holiday-makers are sometimes disappointed to find that the sea is not colored that beautiful azure blue which we love. A glass of sea water is perfectly transparent and colorless, yet the ocean is often colored any shade from yellow to purple.

It is the salt in the sea water which causes the blue color, for all the innumerable small particles of salt in the water filter the sun's rays and reflect the blue light. Seas which contain a large proportion of salt are colored the deepest blue. The Mediterranean, for example, which is rich in salt, is perhaps the deepest blue known. And the Pacific ocean is dark enough to be called indigo.

Why Moon Affects Hair

"Has the moon any effect upon the growth of human hair?" asks a correspondent. A well-known astrologer declares that it has. He states that if the hair is cut when there is a new moon it grows twice as quickly as if cut when the moon is a dying one. Although this authority has a luxuriant growth of hair, he has it cut only four or five times a year, always when there is a dying moon.

You Are Judged By Your Clothes

A man or woman is always judged by their clothes. If they are clean and neat, a favorable impression is always formed, and the man or woman who wishes to look well at all times will have their clothes cleaned and pressed regularly.

Your apparel will always be in good clean condition, and wear longer if you let the Smith Cleaning Works, 581 Main St. E. Stone 2776, and 518 Monroe Avenue Stone 1246 take care of them for you. There is a delightful freshness about the clothes that this well known firm clean and press.

Phone them at either of the above numbers, and they will send for anything you may have for cleaning, dyeing or pressing and will return same to you promptly.

Their reliable service, coupled with the merit of their work, together with the care they take to please you has built their business so that they are now one of the largest and most up-to-date cleaning firms in the city.

Named Chancellor For Helena

Helena, Mont., Dec. 1.—The Rt. Rev. Msgr. Victor Day, V. G., has been chosen by the consultors of the Diocese of Helena as Administrator of the Diocese pending the appointment of a successor to Bishop Carroll, who died recently in Switzerland.

"The Beggar's Opera"

"The Beggar's Opera" was the first musical play presented on the American stage. It was written by John Gay, and was produced at the Nassau Street theater, New York, 174 years ago, January 14, 1761. A large proportion of the 10,000 people then comprising the population of New York attended the performance, although there were not a few who protested against "the godless affair" and threatened "to have the law" on it. The Murray and Keene company, a band of comedians who came to New York from Philadelphia, were responsible for the production, which was a benefit performance for Thomas Keane, who personally called on the leading citizens and sold tickets. The performance began at 6 o'clock and was over at 8:45. One of the lines from this light opera was "How happy could I be with either, were't other dear charmer away."—Chicago Journal.

Mistakes of Reporters

A bad mistake is made by a small English provincial newspaper when it hails the arrival in town of the son of Robert Louis Stevenson, poet and novelist. Stevenson had no son, at least that anyone ever heard of. But a worse mistake was made by another paper, also British and provincial, which is talked of still among journalists on Fleet street. The editor's sole woman reporter being ill, he sent out a man to describe the dresses and gowns on at a wedding nearby. One of the guests, a woman, spotted him, and now you cannot buy the issue of the paper his report appeared in at a premium. He had the women's hats trimmed with pommes de terres; his dresses with creme de menthe.—Baltimore Sun.

The Days of Youth

"We are young only once," you often hear some person remark as an excuse for "hitting the pace."

True, we can be young but once, and the pleasure of youth must be crowded into that space of time.

But how long are we young? Some men are old at forty, while others are still young at sixty. It depends upon the pace they hit and the manner in which they hit it.

We can crowd a lot of work and pleasure into youth if we keep our hearts and our minds and our bodies clean. We can reduce the amount of both and shorten our youth by resorting to reckless dissipation.—Newcastle Courier.

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Red Cross Range Proves Real Friend To The Housewife

The matter of the kitchen range is of greatest importance in the better home. The woman who does her own housework—and they are in the majority by thousands—is also the woman of active affairs, and a range that will save her time, labor and worry is the one she desires.

The Red Cross Range, manufactured in Rochester by the Co-Operative Foundry Company, and sold in Rochester by Chas. G. Diehl, 635 Jay Street, phone Genesee 4498, is a range most popular with the busy, active housewives of Rochester for those very reasons.

The big feature of the Red Cross is that it has an oven heat control, positive and dependable, that makes it possible for the whole meal to be placed in the oven at one time, the control set at the heat required, and then no more attention has to be paid to the meal until time to serve it.

The oven control takes all the guesswork out of cooking, and makes possible cooking, baking and roasting that can be known in advance just how it will turn out. Moreover, it makes it impossible for food to be burned up in the oven, provided the control is properly used.

Right at the present season of the year, and in view of the prevailing coal strike, and the resultant shortage of fuel the Red Cross combination range is more than proving its value in those homes where it has been installed and orders for ranges of that model are being received daily.

For the use of the coal section makes it possible for the whole house

to be comfortably heated—the chill taken off, which is all that is necessary until real cold weather sets in—a fact that is fully appreciated. Moreover, the Red Cross combination cooks as well with coal as it does with gas.

Mr. Diehl will be glad to show you any of the models you are particularly interested in, and to give you prices on any that you desire.

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