

A \$50,000 LUMP.

FIVE POUNDS OF BLUE CLAY ALL STUDDED WITH DIAMONDS.

It Was Smuggled Out of the Kimberley Diamond Mines by a Kaffir, and Brought to This Country.

TAKE a good-sized lump of bluish putty, knead it into a rough truncated pyramid, stick small bits of white and yellow and pale blue glass into the surface at random and leave the putty to harden, and when it is hardened the result will be a very fair imitation of the most extraordinary specimen of diamondiferous earth ever brought to this country. This specimen is now in the possession of Benjamin W. Levy, a diamond dealer in this city, who bought it in and brought it from

enormous difficulties of getting out such a lump of earth as that. Why, about the only way they can get single stones is by swallowing them.

"Let me digress a moment to tell you something about the mine work. All the diggers are natives, mostly Kaffirs. They come from their own land four days on foot to work in the mines, and get enough money to go home and buy a wife from their King. All the women are owned by the King, who sells them to the men. That's the way the royal exchequer is kept up. A wife represents a very long term of labor in the mines, so the Kaffir is not above decreasing his period of service by secreting a few diamonds about him if he can. To keep the men from getting away with all the diamonds, the company has an overseer for every six or eight workers. As the Kaffirs work with no clothing other than an extremely small breech cloth, opportunities for external concealment are very small. Every one of them is

"Having got our diamonds, the next thing to do was to get them out of the country. If you go out by the southern coast you have to show a bill of sale for every gem in your possession, and you are searched pretty carefully, too. That is the sort of protection the company gets from the Government. Of course I couldn't show any bill of sale for my purchases. The thing to do was to get out of the country some other way. We struck across country with our ox wagons until we came to the river, and then traveled by water to the coast. On the way we had some great hunting. The animals you see in the picture are wild beasts shot near Christiania.

"If I were a writer," concluded Mr. Levy, "I could write a book worth reading about the diamond trade of the Kaffirs down there; but the most interesting chapter I'd have to leave out because I won't ever know the truth of it; how that boy got the five pound lump of dirt and diamonds, from the shelf, 1800 feet down, up to the earth's surface in the face of the most perfect inspection system in the world."—New York Sun.

WOMEN IN HIGH HATS.

In Baden Hats Are Always High and the Fashion Never Changes.

It is commonly believed that the high hat is a very modern thing. In fact, the centenary is said to be due in 1897. But there is a country in Germany where it has been worn for hundreds of years, and, curiously enough, the wearers are of the female sex. The women of Elzthal, Schonach and other neighboring valleys in the Grand Duchy of Baden wear high hats as part of their best clothes.

The hat is slightly higher than the kind usually worn by men of this and other highly civilized parts of the world. The sides are perfectly straight, a fashion which has prevailed among American and English men, but has not been seen for several years. It is, in fact, of the variety which has been called the "stove-pipe." In the happy and antiquated community of Elzthal the fashions do not change perceptibly in the course of a hundred years. A girl is happy in the possession of one, or at most two high hats, and her father or husband should be happy in the knowledge that she does not want more.

When it comes to the brim there is some difference between the Elzthal woman's hat and that of conventional man. The brim turns down slightly at the sides, and two ribbons are attached here, which pass under the chin and hold the hat on the head. Even in primitive Elzthal woman does not go the length of wearing a hat large enough to fit her. It must perch lightly on top of her hair, and be secured by something more than its own weight.

These high hats are often handed down from mother and daughter, and are a source of much pride. Although



FASHIONABLE LADIES OF BADEN.

they are in many cases very old, they are kept in excellent condition, and show less damage than a three-months-old spring hat as worn by an American woman. They are made of felt just stiff enough to hold its shape. The hats are reputed by ancient tradition to be very healthy to wear, because they interpose an air chamber between the heat or the cold and the top of the head. The women of Elzthal and Schonach do not suffer from baldness, a misfortune which is supposed to be produced among men by the use of the high hat.

American Snake With Three Heads.

Dr. Shaffer, a noted Iowa naturalist, recently added to his collection of serpents a remarkable three-headed snake. The reptile, the first of its kind ever discovered, is perfectly formed. Its three heads are of exactly the same size and shape. Its various necks are joined at the same place to its body.

This remarkable reptile was discovered by William Price, a farmer, about three miles from Elizabeth, Penn. While Price was repairing a fence he found a snake's nest, filled with eggs. He broke the eggs. To his amazement, a snake with three distinct heads crawled from one of the shells. Price killed the snake and



THE SNAKE WITH THREE HEADS.

carried it home. It was afterwards exhibited for several days in Shaffer's drug store at Elizabeth before being sent to Shaffer's brother, the Iowa naturalist.

The ugliest man in England is said to be Sir Richard Temple, ex-member of Parliament for the Kingston division of Surrey.



PETS OF A LITTLE QUEEN.

The present of the Queen Regent of Holland to Queen Wilhelmina, on her sixteenth birthday, was a beautiful team of four horses. The little Queen is devoted to riding and driving, so that her delight at her mother's present can be well imagined. All her life her greatest pleasure has been her pets—pigeons, dogs, cats, ponies and poultry having all interested her. She is also extremely fond of flowers, and has a fair knowledge of gardening. Her Majesty is sturdy in figure, and has a sweet, serious face, stamped with good sense.

CHILEAN WOMEN WHO WORK.

The brunette is the more common type of beauty in Chile, though a magnificent type of blonde is not uncommon. The brunettes have clear, olive skins, their features are finely chiseled and their eyes, big and black, are lovely beyond description. In both Valparaiso and Santiago women act as conductors on the street cars. The cars are double-decked, and the conductor, who wears a smart uniform, has a seat on the rear platform. There she sits and collects the fares of the passengers as they get on, and she rings the register, with which all the cars are fitted, without leaving her seat. She is affable, polite, even tempered and accommodating to everyone.

SOME TOILET NOVELTIES.

Unless you have a bit of Bohemian glass on your toilet table you have no right to flatter yourself that you are up to date.

There are any number of odd-shaped Bohemian glass salve boxes, pin trays and hairpin-cases, but as yet the brush with a glass back has not been seen.

Ivory toilet articles decorated with gold are much in favor with those who can afford them. Upon a highly polished mahogany table they look very beautiful.

The Bohemian glass puff boxes are exquisite affairs, and much less expensive than the gold or silver ones. The puff looks very pretty, showing through the glass box.

Toilet articles of this delicately colored glass are one of the present fads of the society woman. It is not the plain Bohemian glass that she favors, but the glass that is studded with imitation jewels and wrought with gilt designs.

FOR WINTER COSTUMES.

There is every indication that fine qualities of French and German broadcloth and Venetian and ladies' cloth will be in great use during the winter for entire costumes, princess dresses, redingotes, capes and jackets. The finish of these textiles this year is the finest that has ever been produced. Amazon cloth is another fashionable material. These goods differ from broadcloth in having a semi-twilled surface which is not distinct, and which does not permit of the lustrous finish characteristic of the high-grade broadcloths. They are from fifty to fifty-four inches wide, and cost from \$1.40 to \$1.75 a yard. The taste for soft, delicate woollens like India cashmere and Henrietta cloth is never wholly lost, and although their attractions may be temporarily obscured by the more pronounced novelty of rough shaggy, crinkled, or repped goods, not a few of which are rather deceptive as to durability, as many have discovered. The refinement that is characteristic of these soft woollens now marks the fashionable dyes among textiles noted above.—New York Post.

THE NEW TIGHT SLEEVE.

A favorite sleeve for the plain cloth gown which admits of little garniture has the arm fitted quite snugly almost to the shoulder, narrowing down to absolute tightness at the wrist where it spreads over the hand in two deep points. The only fullness of the sleeve puffs out at the shoulder, smartly, not at all in a drooping way, but aggressively stiff, as if making up for the lack of quantity. Often this style of sleeve is made up in velvet for a cloth gown, and finished at the wrist by a soft frill of yellow

lace. A far more dressy sleeve is shown in a style suitable for a handsome dinner or reception gown, where more or less elaborateness is employed. Over a tight lining of silk is puckered thin mousseline de soie in black or white from the puff which tops the shoulder to the frill finishing the wrist. The puff is made of the dress material, and is made to stand out as stiffly as possible, finished oddly with a huge loop and long end of the silk stuff caught at the top of the shoulder by a fancy button, and allowed to flutter away at the back. Twists of velvet, fastened with fancy buttons, finish the bottom of the shoulder puff and the wrist.

THE PUEBLO WOMEN.

"The Pueblo-Indian women are often very pretty as girls, and some of them make stately young mothers," writes Hamlin Garland in the Ladies' Home Journal. "They work generally in groups of three or four, cooking, whitewashing, weaving or painting pottery. They seem to have a good deal to chatter about, and their smiling faces are very agreeable. They have most excellent white teeth. Their ceremonial dress is very picturesque, especially the costume of the Acoma and Isleta girls. All burdens are carried by the women of Acoma, Isleta and Laguna upon the head, and they have, in consequence, a magnificent carriage, even late in life. The old women of Walpi, on the contrary, are bent and down-looking. They carry their burdens on their backs slung in a blanket. The girls of Isleta wear a light cloth over their heads Spanish fashion, and manage it with fine grace and coquetry. The everyday dress of the Hopi women consists of a sort of kilt, which is wrapped around the hips and fastened with a belt (a modification of the blanket of wolf-skin); above this a sort of chemise covers the bosom. Their hair is carefully tended, but is worn in an ungraceful mode by some of the women. The women of Hano cut the hair in front square across about to the line of the lips, while the back hair is gathered into a sort of billet. The front hair hangs down over the face, often concealing one eye. The unmarried women in Walpi wear their hair in a strange way: They coil it into two big disks just above the ears.—The intent being to symbolize their youth and promise by imitating the squash flower. The matrons correspondingly dress their hair to symbolize the ripened squash. Some of the maidens were wonderfully Japanese in appearance."

FASHION NOTES.

A new French collet has two yokes. Pearl gray is the correct color for new stationery.

The stiff collars and cuffs are to be with us all winter.

Frog green is the latest tone in leather card cases and purses.

Swiss embroideries possess an appealing prettiness irresistible to womankind.

How much less one feels in doubt to owe one big bill rather than a score of little ones.

Though it is predicted that the quiet colors will be the leaders, the pinks in the windows are sufficiently gay to make one doubt the statement.

Silk handkerchiefs in subdued blue, green and red tints are used as vests in the new Louis Seize coats, the pointed ends of which, lace trimmed, fall below the wide belt of black satin.

Most of this season's coats are braided, as well as the capes. A black broadcloth coat shown the other day had a back of three box plaits falling from a braided yoke.

The whole tendency in this season's dress materials is something transparent enough to necessitate a silk lining—which, whether shot or chambray—gives the desired effect of brilliant coloring.

The new coats have loose backs and fronts. A Paris model in a leading shop was of brown broadcloth, embroidered back and front with applied black broadcloth. The collar was in the new slashed effect, and the sleeves were rather small.

FOR THE HOUSEWIFE.

DELICIOUS ORANGE DESSERT.

Shred half a dozen juicy oranges, leaving all the pulp. Pile these small pieces up in a china bowl. Make a rich syrup by boiling a pound of out sugar in water and a little lemon juice. Pour this syrup over the oranges and set away in a cool place. Before serving spread over the top a small quantity of whipped cream. This makes a delicious dessert for either luncheon or dinner.—Ladies' Home Journal.

MUTTON SOUP.

Two pounds of coarse, lean, chopped mutton (the scrag makes good soup and costs little); half an onion, sliced; one cupful of milk, half a cupful of raw rice, two quarts of cold water, one teaspoonful of salt. Put the meat into cold water with the onion, and simmer four hours; when nearly done add the salt, set away until cold, then skim and strain; return to the pot with the rice, which has been soaked for three hours, simmer half an hour, turn in the milk, which has been heated, stir and serve.

THE BEST BLEND OF COFFEE.

One of the best blends of coffee is one-half Mocha and one-half Java. The coffee should be bought in the berry, and not only ground, but, if possible, also roasted at home. As a rule, coffee is over-roasted. The moment the berries acquire a golden brown tint and oily stains appear they should be taken from the oven, and a little piece of butter melted over them adds to the richness of the berry. If they are left until dark brown, the oil, which contains the aroma of the coffee, evaporates, and the dark liquid which is the result of coffee-making with burned berries is devoid of perfume and flavor.

TO MAKE DARIOLES.

Savory darioles are suitable either for luncheon or supper and may be made with boiled or roast beef, veal or chicken. Mince the meat, season it with salt, pepper and a little nutmeg; add a small quantity of grated ham (potted ham will answer the purpose) and a few shreds of red pickled cabbage chopped up and moistened sufficiently to form into a paste with some liquid aspic jelly. Fill some individual molds with the mixture, and when set turn out and place each on a rather thick slice of tomato; serve around a pile of finely shredded lettuce dressed with mayonnaise. Almost any kind of flaky fish can be used in the same way for filling dariole molds, but when this is done a hard-boiled egg should be added in place of the ham and the aspic should be whisked until frothy with a small quantity of mayonnaise, before being mixed with the fish.—Philadelphia Public Ledger.

HOUSEHOLD HINTS.

Use bits of stale bread for croutons. Cut them in small dice and brown in the oven. Serve hot with soup.

All bread crumbs which may be in the bread jar should be dried, rolled fine and placed in a jar or can ready to use in escalloping meats, fish, oysters, vegetables, or as thickening.

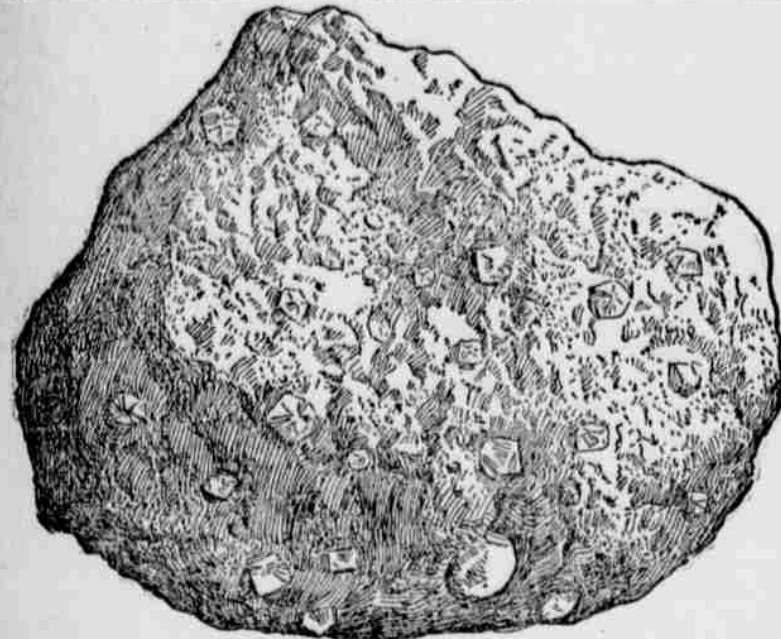
For poison by poison oak or ivy, take a handful of quicklime, dissolve in water, then paint the poisoned part with it. Two or three applications will ordinarily cure the most stubborn cases.

The foliage of house plants should never be allowed to accumulate dust. Dust chokes the plant, and clean leaves are brighter as well as healthier. Plants should be washed at least once in two weeks.

Fowls which have long sines achieved their majority may renew their youth and win economies as "roast chicken" by being stuffed, seasoned, steamed until tender, then roasted a delicate golden brown.

To keep the varnished wood or furniture looking fresh and bright it should be rubbed thoroughly with oil from time to time. Only a little oil should be used, and that carefully rubbed in with a flannel until it seems to have all gone; otherwise it will catch the dust, and the wood will look worse than if it had been left alone.

Linoleum floor covering may be made to look bright and new by rubbing it with equal parts of salad oil and vinegar. Rub thoroughly with a flannel cloth and do not use too much of the mixture nor allow any of it to remain on the surface of the linoleum. If very much soiled, clean the covering by wiping with a cloth wet with soap and water before using the oil and vinegar.



ACTUAL SIZE OF THE \$50,000 LUMP OF CLAY.

South Africa. The illustration shows the exact size of the lump of earth.

On the surface of this lump of earth, which is called blue mass, are forty-five diamonds of good size, while many other smaller ones can be seen glinting through a thin encrustation. Blue mass is the regular diamond matrix, the earth of all the Kimberley mines of South Africa. It dissolves like lime under 240 pounds pressure in water. On an average this earth yields about \$12 worth of diamonds to the ton. If it were all as rich in diamonds as this lump supposedly is, reckoning from what appears on the surface of it, the yield would be something like six million dollars a ton. Mr. Levy says that until he finds an X ray that will show up the interior of the specimen he can't tell the commercial value of his prize. As a curiosity he considers it worth about \$50,000.

Of the diamonds on the surface of the piece of earth the largest is reckoned to weigh about sixteen or seventeen carats. This one is nearly round, and almost completely encrusted with the blue mass. It is not of very good quality. The best of the stones appears to be of about four carats weight. Several of the diamonds are almost perfect octahedrons, while others show almost equal geometrical regularity, but less complexity. The owner thinks that the surface value is about \$1200. Undoubtedly there are other diamonds inside the mass, and what the entire value of the diamond yield would be can only be guessed at. Mr. Levy refuses to say what he paid for the specimen, but he states that, in addition to the money, it cost him a great deal of worry and anxiety to get it out of Africa, as only gems brought through the regular channels

carefully searched every day before he leaves the mine. There are three punishments for Kaffirs caught stealing diamonds. One is whipping; and it is no joke the way it is done there. The second is imprisonment, which is likely to include whipping, and the third is being committed to the breakwater to break stones. In spite of all these precautions there are many diamonds stolen yearly.

"Well, to come back to the subject, it is almost inexplicable how a five pound lump of diamond earth could be brought out without discovery. Possibly the finder of it may have kept it concealed for months in the mine before he could get it up; and undoubtedly there was concerted action on the part of several men. They generally work together. Any way, brought out it was, and by this fellow."

Mr. Levy put his finger on the figure in the photograph, on the far left, then he changed it to the figure in the background on the left.

"And that chap was my scout," said he. "I had employed him before when I was in South Africa, and he told me of this wonderful lump of earth which a fellow tribesman of his had buried. It was in Christiania, up north of Kimberley. I had gone there by ox wagon with my brother and three other white men. We had about thirty boys—Kaffirs and Zulus, that is, they're always called boys—with the party. The Kaffir who had the diamonds was to meet my scout and complete the deal, the price having already been set and accepted. None of us whites figured in the transaction as principals. My scout took out the money and brought back the chunk of blue mass, and that is all there was to it. The other Kaffir—it's inconvenient



THE PARTY THAT GOT THE DIAMOND CLAY FROM THE KAFFIR.

can be taken out through Capetown, the customs officials seizing all others. This little bunch of gems was not brought through the regular channels. It was bought from a Kaffir who was murdered shortly after the sale, presumably because the murderers expected to find the proceeds of the sale upon him, in which they were probably disappointed. Kaffirs do not carry large sums of gold about with them. Here is the story of the blue mass so far as Mr. Levy chooses to tell it:

"It was found," said Mr. Levy to a San reporter to whom he was showing the specimen, "in 1891, in one of the Kimberley mines, 1800 feet below the earth's surface. A Kaffir picked it up just as it is there. How he managed to get it to the surface of the earth is beyond my power to tell; almost beyond it to imagine. Only one who knows of the rigorous watch kept by the overseers upon the Kaffirs who work the mines can comprehend the

ent not to have any name to call him by, but the only name any of them have is just 'boy,' so far as their employers are concerned—the other Kaffir joined our party for a time. He told me that he had been whipped for some act of his in the mines, and he felt very revengeful over it. The picture in which you see him was taken outside of Christiania just before that 'boy' left us. On his way back to the mines he was murdered, but it isn't likely that the murderers got any money, for those fellows bury their stuff. They work in combinations, ten or a dozen to a combination, and pool their interests. All that they get is buried in some secret spot, and they take turns in guarding it. I have never heard of one of them playing the others false, although they are tricky enough in their dealings with the whites. Of course, the fact that death in some terrible form would be the punishment of any breach of faith acts as a deterrent.