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SERMONS IN STONES.

ntists Testify to Mutual Sympathy Existing Between Jewels and Persons.

Science has come to the fore to tes y that the belief that precious stones ve a peculiar sympathy with human aracter and bearing thereon is no le superstition. A professor of the aris conservatory of Arts and Crafts ays that the mutual attraction of people and stones is beyond dispute.

He throws cold water on the belief that sapphires can open prison doors or that diamonds make brave men invulnerable. But after three years' experimental observation he maintains that a preference for certain jewels indicates certain temperamental qualities and even characteristic of physiognomy.

For instance, the ruby invariably attracts persons of dark eyes with long eyelashes. The diamond tempts the blue eyed who boast long lashes. And both blonde and brunette alike if of a nervous temperament yearn for emeralds.

Easy-going natures fall under the spell of blue stones.

But more than all these scientific facts is the discovery that the sympathy of the stone is a sure test of its genuineness. No matter how perfect artificial stones may be, even though made from the dust of the real, having undergone an unnatural crystallization they do not possess the subtle sympathetic attraction. When an easy-going woman turns the cold shoulder on a turquoise collar you may be positive that the turquoise is artificial.

NOVEL CHURCH ORNAMENTS

Scythes Form Odd Decoration for Chapel Interior at St. Mary's in England.

At first sight the scythe is a strange ornament for a church, but there is nothing incongruous in these curious agricultural implements as seen in the parish church of St. Mary's, at Horncastle, in Lincolnshire, says the Christian Age. Thirteen of these blades are nailed above the door in the north chapel. At one time the blades numbered 40 or 50, but owing to rust and decay many of them have been lost. Each of the scythes is about a yard in length.

The general belief is that these blades were placed in the church in commemoration of the zeal of peasants who wielded them in defense of their faith in the rebellion known as "The Pilgrimage of Grace," which had its rise at Louth in 1536. When the people saw the ruins of their churches and abbeys they rose in revolt, and, arming themselves with the instruments of husbandry, such as the scythes, they went forth to encounter the enemy. They were beaten and dispersed, but in the eyes of their countrymen they were heroes, and the rude implements with which they fought were deemed worthy of an abiding place in the old church where the peasants had worshiped.

FILLING A FOUNTAIN PEN

This May Be the Experience of the Awkward or Nervous Persons.

Filling a fountain pen is a task that requires a steadiness of hand, a clear eye and a quiverless nerve. It also requires a bottle of ink, a dropper and a fountain pen, says the Detroit Free Press. Having the necessary tools one should next stock up on patience and blotting paper. He will need both. The dropper is supposed to gently shoot the ink into the pen. As a rule it shoots everywhere but in the pen, mostly over the owner's white vest and his clean cuffs. That which misses the vest and the cuffs will find a resting place on his fingers.

After trying three or four times to persuade the ink to occupy the apartment provided for it you may be able to blow an ink bubble over the top of the pen. When this bubble bursts it will no doubt spatter on your shirt front, but be persevering. Only perseverance will accomplish the desired result. Having finally filled the pen, you must screw down the top. In doing so you should strive to avoid squeezing out the ink. Not until you can close a fountain pen without squeezing ink into your hand will you be known as a successful penman.

In conclusion, it may be stated that when once a fountain pen is ready for action you should not stand it on its head. Nothing aggravates a fountain pen so much as to stand it on its head. It is also a bad thing for the pocket.

Homeward Bound from London.

In the "fall" the globe-trotting American departs from these shores to her own, carrying with her huge numbers of pretty presents for the friends who have stayed on the other side of the ocean. Perhaps as a consequence of the exodus that is now taking place many of the London shops are making a specialty of delightful little gifts, and in one center are on view now hundreds of presents that cost one shilling only. A shilling is a favorite sum of money with Americans, who quickly understand its significance, whereas one and sixpence is a puzzle to them at first, and the popular interpolation of half-pennies and farthings ends in intellectual bewilderment. To aid his customers from the other side one London purveyor has very cleverly issued a table showing the relative values of sums of money in dollars and shillings.

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THE BANQUETS OF NERO.

Were Partaken of Reclining, a Position Singularly Appropriate to the Occasions.

"When Nero dined," said an actor recently, "there were three courses, eaten lying down, and dances went on, or contests of wild beasts, or even fights of gladiators, and the various dishes were brought in to music by slaves who danced as they approached.

"The first course was composed of hors d'oeuvres—eggs, British oysters, lettuce, olives and so on. To begin a meal with eggs still is popular in Italy.

"The second course comprised all the substantial foods. Turbot (a kind of giant flounder), peacock, flamingo, sucking pig, boar, venison and truffles were brought in upon a huge round tray carried by four or five dancing slaves.

The third course was the dessert—candies, fruits, pastries.

"The guests at Nero's dinners put on dinner dresses of bright colors. They lay on couches on their sides, three to a couch, and they supported the head on the left arm, which, from practice grown muscular, endured the long, hard work of supporting the head without fatigue. They ate with the fingers. The table was over a foot distant from them, and it was necessary when they wanted a fresh handful of food—another bit of flamingo or of peacock—for them to roll over on their stomachs in order to reach it.

"The wines were fine, and they were used too freely. In fact, so much wine was consumed at these Neronic banquets that if the guests had not commenced to dine lying down, they would have ended in that attitude undoubtedly."

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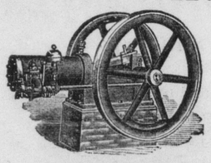

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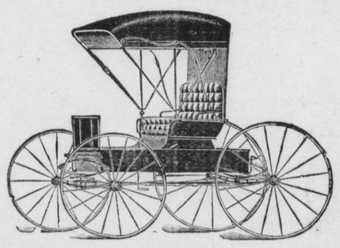

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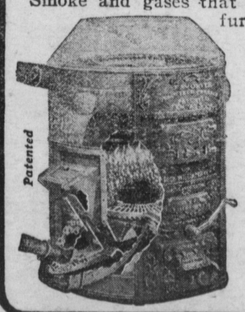

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