

deposition of the pearly material around grains of sand or other accidental intrusions, for the sake of rendering the latter less irritating to the animal, and this is the generally received opinion. The proportion of individuals containing them is, however, very small; not one in a thousand contains a pearl of real value. The Mussels found in clear, running, gravelly streams are most likely to contain them.

ECONOMICS. Pearls are obtained from fresh-water mussels in several parts of the world, notably China, Japan, Germany, and formerly, Scotland. They are also found in the United States, and some rivers have been systematically worked for them. Those of Scotland were formerly held in high esteem and have brought very high prices. A complete discussion of the subject may be found in the papers mentioned below.

In our own waters some very valuable pearls have been found in the fresh-water Mussel. Mr. S. E. Gerow, of the Customs, St. John, is the most expert and successful pearl-fisher of these provinces. The following facts have been given by him to Mr. S. W. Kain, and the latter has kindly allowed the writer to quote them.

"The largest pearl Mr. Gerow knows of that has yet been found in New Brunswick, weighed fifty-six grains, and was sold to parties in Philadelphia for four hundred and fifty dollars. . . . This was found in a brook near Sussex, Kings County. Mr. Gerow found one himself at Coldbrook, which weighed twenty-five grains, and he sold it for one hundred and fifty dollars. It was a very beautiful pearl of splendid lustre and perfect shape. He found another at the same place worth one hundred and fifty dollars, and weighing nineteen grains. Little New River, he says, is a good place for them. He found one there that weighed eighteen grains, and sold for one hundred and ten dollars. A man who was with him found one that he sold for thirty dollars. Mr. Gerow stated that he had seen a pearl from Nova Scotia that sold for seventy-five dollars. St. John, Kings and Charlotte are the only counties where he knows of much search having been made. Mr. Gerow found another weighing fifty grains, but it was not symmetrical. It was flat on one side, but of a very good purplish lustre. He sold it in New York for one