

Making Precious Stones.

While the artificial diamonds so far produced have been very expensive, and are too small to have any commercial value, the manufacture of rubies seems to be developing into a considerable industry. The process of making these "Geneva rubies," as they are called, has been supposed to be a secret one, but it is understood that the apparatus used by a Parisian chemist includes a blowpipe like that used by glass-workers and a heating pipe. In the latter a pointed sugar loaf is built up in strata by alternately sifting in finely pulverized alumina and chromium oxide. This makes possible gradual heating, the molten mass takes a spherical form, and on slow and careful cooling the oxide of aluminium forms regular and perfectly clear crystals. Great care is necessary to avoid bubbles. In this simple way it is possible to make three or four stones at a time, often a quarter of an inch across and weighing thirteen to sixteen carats, and as they are genuine rubies only experts can distinguish them from the natural.

Queer Things Made from Milk.

It is probably not generally known that from a substance called galalith, made of milk, there are manufactured many articles that are commonly supposed to be of ivory. Milk stone, or galalith, or petrified milk, is milk subjected to a chemical process, by means of which the casein is converted into a yellowish brown powder.

This powder is mixed with formaline and a horn-like product is formed, called milk stone.

By mixing with various other substances there are made substitutes for many other useful materials—ivory, celluloid, hard rubber and even amber. There is no limit to the number of useful articles which can be made from this wonderful substance called galalith, and they include almost everything, from cigarette holders to mantelpieces.

Piano keys are now seldom made of real ivory, except in the case of the more expensive instruments. This is rather remarkable when one remembers that from a single elephant's tusk, no fewer than ninety-six sets of keys have been cut. However, galalith is now the best substitute for ivory that we have, for it is smooth to the touch, retains an excellent color, and, unlike celluloid, is proof against fire.

Coals to Newcastle.

A benevolent old gentleman brimful of information, saw a plainly dressed looking man leaning against a fence gazing earnestly at the telegraph wires. Going up to the countryman, he said: "Waiting to see a message go 'long, eh?"

The man grinned and said "Ay." The benevolent old gentleman devoted the next quarter of an hour to an attempt to dispel his ignorance.

"Now," he said at last, "as you know something about the matter, I hope you will spread the knowledge among your mates on the farm."

"But I don't work on a farm," replied the rural citizen.

"Where, then, may I ask?" "Me and my mates are telegraph linesmen, and we are testing a new wire."—Exchange.

Notes and Notions.

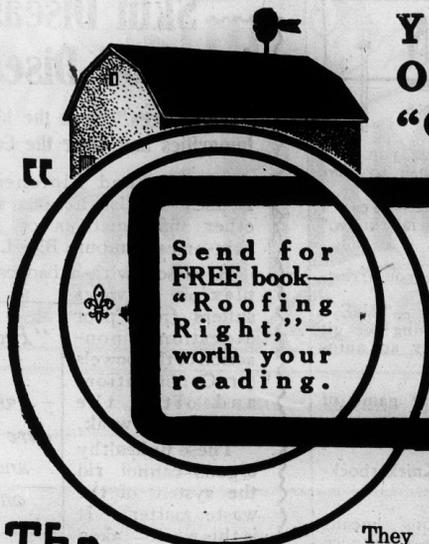
It is a fashionable fad now among city people to become tanned. It shows they have had a country outing. But, girdles, if you have a sun bonnet, wear it. Keep your complexion clear and pretty if you can.

Always wash the face thoroughly and well just before retiring. This beautifies the skin.

Mix lemon juice and honey for a lotion to whiten the hands. Rub in after taking the hands from wash or dish water, and at retiring.

If you are "bilious" use olive oil. Learn to use it on all kinds of salads. If objectionable at first, mix with lemon juice.

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