

THE OLIVINE.

The olivine has a delicate olive-green color, which greatly enhances the beauty of diamonds when the two stones are mounted together, it also combines well with opals, and is much used in jewellery. The colors vary from light straw-yellow to yellowish-green, when the stone receives the name of Chrysolite; and thence to a peculiar soft hue of a deep yellowish-green, when it is called Peridot. It is found in the Levant, Mexico, Brazil and South Africa.

Specific gravity : 3.35.

Hardness : 6.5.

THE TURQUOISE.

The turquoise is a hard opaque gem of sky-blue color, which combines beautifully with diamonds and pearls. It is found principally in Persia and Arizona. Turquoise matrix is the term applied to stones where the brown sand-stone runs through the turquoise, making a rich mottled effect.

Specific gravity : 2.75.

Hardness : 6.

THE AMETHYST.

This term is applied to all the violet and purple crystal of quartz, which are found in nearly all parts of the world. The really fine stones, however, now so much used in jewellery, come from Brazil, Uruguay and Siberia.

Specific gravity : 2.6.

Hardness : 7.

THE GARNET.

The mineralogist includes a great number of stones which present a variety of colors under this name; but among jewellers the name is confined to the deep red variety of the garnet family. The finest garnets are found in Ceylon and Siberia.

Specific gravity : 3.5 to 4.3.

Hardness : 7.

THE ALMANDINE.

The almandine is a very pretty species of garnet found in India. It has a rich petunia color between the purple of the amethyst and deep red of the garnet.

Specific gravity : 3.5 to 4.3.

Hardness : 7.

THE BLOODSTONE.

Bloodstone is a variety of jasper, of a deep green color, interspersed with red spots which resemble small drops of blood, whence its name. Being a hard stone and yet not difficult of manipulation, it is the favorite for seal rings in which monograms and crests are cut.

Specific gravity : 2.6.

Hardness : 7.

THE CARNELIAN.

Carnelian is a clear red variety of chalcedony having the same characteristics as the bloodstone.

Specific gravity : 2.6.

Hardness : 7.

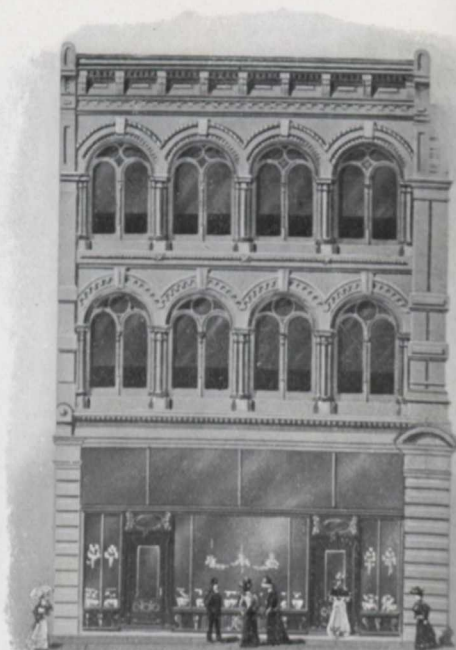
THE OPAL.

Several kinds of opals are known to the mineralogist, but of these the common opal, semi-opal, and Mexican or fire opal, are of little or no value. The precious or noble opal was formerly obtained almost exclusively from Hungary, but of late years large quantities have been found in Queensland and New South Wales, and as the Hungarian mines have been largely worked out, Australia is now the chief source of supply. There are innumerable superstitions attached to the opal. By the Ancients it was thought to bestow every possible good; in the Middle Ages the same belief held, but by a strange freak of fashion, for which Sir Walter Scott's "Anne of Gherstein" was largely answerable, it was for a long time considered unlucky. The pendulum, however, is now swinging the other way, and the opal is again looked upon as a lucky stone.

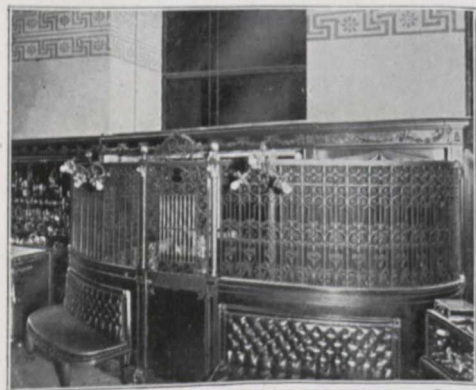
Composition : Silica.

Specific gravity : 2 to 2.2.

Hardness : 5.5 to 6.



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