

the wit. The Balais Ruby is a protector against lightning. The Chrysolite was said to cool boiling water and assuage the thirst, and if placed in contact with poison it lost its brilliancy until removed."

It was not until chemistry began to be fairly understood that the system of classifying all stones of one colour under the same name was abandoned, and although science has made rapid strides and much light has been thrown on this subject, yet the investigators of the near future may look upon our labours and theories with the same doubtful appreciation as we now entertain of those of our forefathers. I have been diverted somewhat from my original intention, in pointing out the superstitions of the ancients regarding certain gems, but in so doing we are enabled to see the existing link still unbroken, with the superstition of the present day. Concerning the Opal you will find that not two ladies out of six will wear this stone, because they say it is unlucky.

The present time may be considered an age of artificial gems, owing, no doubt, to their insignificant value and bright colours, which frequently almost equal those of real gems, and thanks also to the skill of the artificer, whose designs have been immortalized by the appreciation they have received. I know of no more unpleasant business than to be called upon to give an opinion of an old family heirloom, perhaps a ring or a brooch, from the age or make-up of which one could infer without much doubt that the setting once contained a costly gem; years of wear had, however, weakened the delicate claws, and it was then handed to a workman for repair, so as to avoid its loss; but alas, too often some unscrupulous person had abstracted the jewel and replaced it with one of glass. The imposition may remain unnoticed for a great many years, and at last, when the fact is known, it is then too late to recover the gem. The workman that was guilty of such fraud had either left for other parts of the world or was dead--(personal experience).

Another way in which the unsuspecting public can be defrauded is known to the trade as "Growing a Diamond." This consists of abstracting a Diamond from a piece of jewellery that has been left for repair and replacing it with a smaller stone. Another fraud which is very prevalent, is the substitution of a "doublet" for a real gem. In