MANY EXPLORERS ARE NOW ABROAD

century nears its end it sees a mighty effort being made in all fields to work out the story of the world-ethnolog-Ically, archeologically, Paleontologically and geographically. There is hardly a spot on the earth's surface from New Zealand to the poles that is not being made the subject of energetic exploration.

POLAR EXPEDITIONS.

The poles and the polar regions never have been sought by so many expeditions at the same time. Besides the well-known ones in both the Arctic and Antarctic, there are many smaller ones of which comparatively little has been said. A Norwegian relief expedition is searching now for Sverdup, who started for the north pole in the famous Fram, which was last seen by Peary going north fast in the ice, in e fierce arctic storm.

Dr. Deichman, of the old Amdrup expedition, is working somewhere along the western coast of Greenland with the steamer Fox. A Danish expedition under Henry Ette, another experienced polar explorer, is studying the eastern coast of the same land. It consists of twelve men, and, as it carries provitions for one and one-half years, it evidently intends to work as far north as possible.

The steamship Laura is on the way north with the Swedish commission eppointed to measure a degree. The leader of this party is Dr. Rubin. Dr. von Zipfel, as astronomer ,and Lieut. Duner, an expert map-maker, accompany the expedition.

In connection with the German antarotic expedition, The Royal Univer-sity of Goettingen, has established a science is going to meet with almost as station on Upolu in Samoa for observations concerning earth magnetism, atmospheric electricity, meteorology and seismography, under the management of Dr. Tetgens. These observations are to be made simultaneously in many other parts of the world. Among other experiments will be some to establish, if possible, the extent and cause of the oscillation of the world at the poles.

DEEP SEA SEARCHES.

The German Government is beginning its part of the work agreed at the international conference at Stockholm, of a great systematic and comprehensive study of the hydrographical and biological features of the German and Baltic Oceans and of the Polar Sea of the eastern hemisphere.

The coast survey ship Moeve has again taken up the work of exploring the Bismarck archipelago in the South Seas, a task which will require years of work, including as it does deep sea soundings, ichthyological and zoological compilations, and the task of making a complete chart of all the groups of islands in that part of the world. TACKLING AFRICA.

Africa is being tackled from all directions and for all sorts of information. The French army captain Lea-iant has penetrated the Niger for almost 1,000 miles with a small steamer, proving conclusively that the feared rapids that mark the 1 ver for one hundred and fifty miles are not insurmountable obstacles to navigation. Col. Monteil, of France, has begun the work of laying out a telegraph line from Southern Tunis to Lake Tchad

on the other side of the Desert of Sahara. From Tunis the dispatches are to go by another wire to Algiers and thence to the Balearic Islands and to Marseilles by wireless telegraphy. DE SEGONZAC'S DARING TRIP. The town of Oran in Algeria recent-

ly celebrated a little occasion. It was the one thousandth anniversary of its existence. Part of the ceremonies consisted in a session of a geographical congress. At that congress a man, burned almost black, arose and told in a dry, matter-of-fact, scientific way, of a little jaunt of almost 2,000 miles that he had just finished. His trip had been through Middle Morocco, which never before had been visited by a European, and which the inhabiting Berbers had sworn never should be so This man, whose name is Count R. de Bordon de Segonzac, decided differently. So he worked his way as near the unknown land as he could, and then, obtaining disguises, he wandered on as an Arab. Despite his excellent knowledge of the maners, speech and customs of the Moroccans, and the inhabitants of the Atlas Mountains, he feared that they might penetrate his disguise if they became inquisitive as to his business. So he took advantage of the fact that Mohammedans believe that insane persons are under the especial care of Allah, and pretended to be insane. This assured him of respect and good treatment everywhere, and, although he had many narrow escapes, he managed to play his role to the end and make sil, and the painter, Hans Mielich, to his way back to civilization with his explore the land of Edom in Northvaluable head still on his shoulders.

He saw the land of the Djabala, then crossed the Atlas Mountain home of the Berbers, and, to end his trip pleasantly, he wandered through the country of the famous and savage Riff pirates. There he "spoiled the Egyptions" for he gathered money in com pany with a begging pilgrim, in whose party he journeyed from tribe to tribe. THE LOST CITY OF MILETUS.

In Asia Misor the Imperial German Archaeological Institute has paid for excavations on the site of the famous ld temple c Cordium, and enough finds have he made to prove that the workers are assault out an ancient settlement that was great and flour-thing 1,500 years before Christ.

Other excavations in the peninsula of Miletus, on the Aegean Sea, have produced results so tempting that private German capital has been furnished, with which the greater part of the peningula has been purchased outright to assure successful prosecution of the work. The territory thus acquired comprises the site of the great Necropolis and the Sacred Way leading to the famous Temple of Apollo of Didyma, the greatest holy place of Acta Minor in its day.

This purchase, it is said now, will make a far more wonderful place to visit than even Pompeii, for when the excavations are completed, a perfect fream city will have been unearthed. The entire hill in front of the city,

Messrs. C. C. Richards & Ce .: Gentlemen,-My daughter, 13 years old, was thrown from a sleigh and injured her so badly it remained stiff and very painful for three years. Four bottles of MINARD'S LINIMENT completely cured er, and she has not been troubled for

J. B. LEVESOUE. St. Joseph, P. Q., Aug. 18, 1900.

wo years. Yours truly,

crowned by the famous theater, be-As the second year of the twentieth longs to the excavators, also the ancient harbor basin with its entrance marked with two colossal marble lions and with a port city with halls in it more than 300 feet long.

Included in the purchase also are the recently unearthed forum, the market place with a Roman fountain of rare beauty, the baths and a mass of ruins that have not yet been examined or cleaned out. NIMBOD'S CITY OF UR

Engineering troops have been climb-ing around and delving in the ruins of Urfa on a branch of the Euphrates -old Ur, the city of Nimrod the Hunter, son of Ham, first ruler of Shinar. The engineers have been planning a railroad station on the very site, perhaps, of the place where he used to entertin the great hunters of the Babylonian kingdom that he is said in old eastern tales to have founded. Prosaic mathematicians have been drawing up long statistics on the stone tables that remain intact on the rocks in front of Urfa and that still are pointed out as the tables at which Nimrod himself used to sit to drink his wine and tell, no doubt, of his narescapes and the big game that he had killed.

When the steel rails are laid they lead over those very stone benches and tables. They will pass by the holy lake of Abraham, with its sacred fish. By its banks, according to the local Mohammedan tradition of today, Abraham, the patriarch, designed to sacrifice his son,

The engineers have found that the ancient tales of the Euphrates as a mighty and terrible river were based Even Slaves Staked on Cards and on good grounds. They acknowledge great a problem there as did the ence of the Babylonians: for in the time of the annual thaws far up in the mountains of Kurdistan and Armenia the river rises as much as 18 feet and tears away everything that is in its path. So the olden troubles of the vanished bridge builders may be experienced again by the present ones. DEVIL WORSHIPERS OF TODAY. These railroad engineers also have enabled the world to learn something at last about the mysterious and no-

torious devil worshipers of Asiatic Turkey, who dwell in the hills east of Mosul on the Tigris, near the ruins of Nineveh. The Turks call them Extinguishers of Lights. They are Kurds, and recognize two forces in the world -the good and the bad. Arguing that the good cannot do anyone harm, they worship the bad, in order to "keep with it. They dare not even mention the devil by name. If they refer to him at all they call him "The Mighty King" or "The King Peacock." The German explorers are making new finds continually in the Black Hills beyond Babylon. A recent ex-cavation has unearthed a temple of a

god of physicians. The chemical examination of Babylonian copper and bronze articles has convinced the explorers that the Babylonians understood the art of making bronze out of an alloy of copper and antimony at least five thousand years before

THE LAND OF ARAB KINGS. Dr. William Hein, assistant curator of the Museum of Natural History of Vienna, and his wife, have returned from a daring and adventurous trip through Southern Arabia, the land of independent kings, who never have recognized the rule of Turkey, and whose names mostly are not known to the world at all. The tour was undertaken for the Vienna Academy of Sciences. It lasted six months and was successful, despite the critical position in which the couple found themselves more than once. The Arab tribes were extremely suspicious and inimical, and in Gishin the ruling sultan finally imprisoned the explorer. He held him for weeks, evidently in the expectation of getting ransom, his views of life and iberty being as simple as those of his ancestors so far back as he could

think. With true Arabic indifference he did not consider Mrs. Hein at all, and, despising her as being only a woman, he allowed her to enjoy her freedom. She used it so well that one day a warship found its way down the Arabian coast and the sultan lost his prospective ransom suddenly.

During the term of imprisonment Dr. Hein worked at his notes and reports from early morning till dark, writing them on the clay floor of his jail. Among other things which be brought back with him are blossoms of the tree from which incense is ob-It is found only in the regions visited by him and its blossoms never had reached Europe before.

AMRA, THE GHOST PALACE. Austria has shown remarkable enthusiasm about exploration in Arabia. Besides Dr. Hein's expedition the Vienna Academy fitted out the expedition of a philologist, the Rev. Dr. Alois Muwestern Arabia. In their first trip they discovered the famous, but, until then, never-seen ghost palace of Amra, which the Arab carayans had made known to Europeans generations ago by their marvelous tales. According to them it was beautiful and deadly. Its walls were decorated by magnificent paintings that were guarded by diinns and other evil spirits of the desert. No man ever had approached it and lived according to the tradition. The Viennese expedition found it, thanks to the friendship of an Arab chief, who turned out to be quite the Arab of romancelion-hearted, handsome, loyal and the soul of hospitality and truthfulness. So enticing were the results of this tour that the two explorers tried another trip to the unknown desert country. But this time they were not so fortunate with the Arab chiefs. In Wadi-al-Butum a depressingly different kind of an Arab pounced upon them with armed men and robbed them of all they had. Not a bit discouraged they refitted as best they could and explored the Damascene desert with good results. But they found no more ghost

BATTLEFIELD CHARTS. The Emperor of Germany is busy with a unique project that will be value to the historical, as well as the military world. Some time ago he dispatched Col. Janke and the Captains von Bismarck. Von Plessen and Von Marees to Asia Minor, to make topographical and photographical studies and to draw up complete charts of the famous battlefields of Alexander the Great. The expedition was even more successful than had been hoped for, and returned with so much material that important results are expected from the work, which is now nearing its completion in Berlin under personal

superintendence of the Emperor. Especially good charts and pictures have been obtained of the field of the Issus, where Alexander conquered Dathe Cranikos, where he beat the Persians a year before that.

LAWS OF PERSIA, 1000 B. C. The French explorer, De Morgan, who has been excavating in Susiana, in Persia, has found not one buried city.

amiable habit of destroying everything and building their own city, according to their own tastes, on the ruins. So it happens that, as the De Morgan expedition excavated, it unearthed one city below the other. Gradually the entire lost history of Persia was laid The Dominican Father Sheil, bare. who accompanies this party as lector, now has an occupation that will make the mouths of archeologists and historians all over the world water. He discovered a stone column that is covered with cuneiform writings. He has deciphered enough already to know that these writings represent laws and statutes that there promulgated in Persia one thousand years before Christ was born. This will make a prize for

THE QUEEN OF SHEBA. Even the stolid and not easily impressed or curious Turks have joined the explorers. In Yemen, which is a part of Arabia, where their rule really is more than nominal, so that they can without danger of being swooped by obnoxious desert kings, the Turks have come on the tracks of no less a personage than the Queen of Sheba, the delightful lady of fashion who visited Solomon. The Turks have unearthed fine marble tablets, uncommonly well preserved, with a vast amount of inscription dating back so far that the excavators are encouraged to hope that some of them really will prove to be edicts of the famous queen

the world when the work is finished.

Many ancient figures of marble and alive.

GAMBLING IN OLD CHARLESTON

Horseraces.

Planters Ruined by Faith in Their Favorite Colts—How a Slave Was Lost and Won at Cards.

"Before the old South Carolina Jockey Club passed out of existence," said an old citizen, "Charleston was undoubtedly a leader in the south in the

matter of gambling.
"New Orleans had its big poker games, and the Mississippi River steamers never went from port to port without sensational play, but there was just as much plunging around here. Gambling was recognized universally and lotteries had a free reign. "It is a well-known fact that a Presbyterian Church in this city was practically built with funds from a lottery and many other institutions got their

start from the wheel of fortune. "Some time ago I was reading a story about black slaves having changed hands in a poker game. Generally, such a statement would be denied, but there are instances on record which cannot be disputed.

"I was present one night in a gambling house here when a well-known planter changed in his body servant for \$2,000 in chips and then lost them against the faro bank. The negro watched the play without understanding it, and the big tears came to his eyes when papers were drawn up transferring his ownership.

"On another occasion I saw a slave change hands at the race track whose owner had wagered \$2,500 on his horse, and when he failed to win he had to make good. He was not able to produce the cash, so the servant was sold with as little ceremony as if he had been a horse and was claimed out of a selling

"You will find it on record somewhere that a slave bought his freedom by winning in a Charleston lottery. He had saved up his cents, and dreaming for a week he bought a tic-ket. It cashed. He got nearly \$3,000 and he immediately removed the chains of bondage by paying the price "In the Jockey Club days before the

civil war there was no such race track betting as is found today. Pools were sold, but the betting was done gentlemen, and a man's word was his "There was no crookedness and

planters raised and raced thoroughoreds for the sport of it. Many of them were wrecked financially by putting too much faith in favorite and the heavy play was of the most sensational character.
"I have seen the old, gray-haired

planters bet \$10,000 on the result of a race and never bat an evelash when they lost. They were thoroughbreds to the manner born.
"Toward the close of the meetings in

the early fifties, a stranger arrived in Charleston ostensibly to buy yearlings. He went from stable to stable, made himself familiar with the owners and got a line on the horses.

"I did not know at the time that he was a plunger, but he was, and he would bet \$25,000 just as quickly as he would flip a coin for a cigar. His gracious manners made friends for him and he was invited to dine in many aristocratic homes. "It was no wonder, therefore, that

he should have dropped in for gentlemanly betting with men who would never wager a dollar with a professional gambler, yet this was exactly what the young man was. He came down here for a killing.
"One afternoon, it. was in 1852, think, this stranger was at the track looking over the horses before the bugle

called them from the paddock. It was a Jockey Club purse event, worth \$1. 600, all ages, and one of the wealthy men of Charleston had offered to wager \$10,000 on Inspector, a chestnut gelding owned by Col. Singleton.
"The stranger immediately took it up and offered to add \$25,000. This was

accepted. "In those days they had four-mile heats, best two in three. I think there were three starters. The Charleston player could not see anything else in the race but Inspector, while the stran ger felt that he had a sure bet in Jeff Davis, a chestnut colt owned by Ma-

jor Sinkler.
"The first heat was a surprise, as it was won by Monte, John Campbell's colt. After this heat the stranger said he would double the wager, under the same conditions, and it was accepted. 'Jeff Davis won the second heat easily, making the best time for the second four-mile heat, and establishing a track record. Davis took the third heat, and the stranger cashed, but it pinched the Charleston man so badly that he was forced to sell twenty slaves to make

From that time on the plunger kept winning. The next day he cleaned up a sum equally large by backing John Harrisons' bay horse, Nat Pope, by Sovereign, who won the Jockey Club purse for three mile heats. "But the young man did not carry away all his winnings. He was just as much of a plunger in a gambling-house as he was on the track, and af-

banks in the city he was left with a small sum.
"These old slave owners never hesitated about backing their horses every time they were sent to the post. They took a personal pride, and this so strong that starters were backed out of sympathy even when the owners but half a dezen of them, one on top knew that they were outclassed.

"From all accounts this last season

ter going up against the fourteen fare

succeeded each other there had the bronze were found, and these and old coins that were found were transported to Sana, where the governor-general has formed a commission to examine the finds and report on them, which will, no doubt, be done in the regular course of placid Turkish events.

IS THE GREAT AEPYORNIS

ALIVE? In Madagascar a local French academy has been organized under the authority of the Government. It is to consist of thirty members. At present it has sixteen-Frenchmen, Scandinavians, Germans and English, with three natives. It is named the Academy of Tananarivo, and the members propose to study the mysterious and practically unknown island from end to end for everything from the folklore to the

creatures that inhabit it.

The romantic side of their efforts will be the opportunity that they will have of finally answering the old have of finally answering the question as to the possible survival of the gigantic Aepyornis birds in the far interior. The story that this enormous creature still stalks in the primeval wilderness is one that comes year by year out of that land. Some scientists have not hesitated to admit that it might be true. There is nothing inherently impossible about it. The Aepyornis is not a creature belonging to a past geological era. It is a creature that has been killed off by man within measurable historical time. So it may be that some fine morning the world will be startled by learning of another wonder of the dim past being caught

at Saratoga was noted for its high gambling, but when you clip off fifty years of advanced ideas Charleston was certainly in the front rank as a gam-bling resort before the Jockey Club meetings were abandoned. There was a reckiess expenditure of money not found since, and I doubt if it will ever

be equaled in this old city. "It was play among gentlemen, where the professional element was kept within bounds, though in later years the southern gentlemen frequented the gambling palaces plunged for high stakes. It was in one of these places that I saw a famous colonel lose his faithful negro attendant through a bad streak of luck.
"It came down to the last deal, and in a moment of fevered excitement the colonel staked his last chance of the black man's ownership on the high card. He was cool and deliperate. The

lave, however, was not.
"He watched the game without understanding it, but his trained ears told him that one turn would decide his fate. Ordinarily a slave might not have cared, but this man did, and he waited breathlessly while the dealer

drew out the card. "And the smile which came over the dealer's face, generally cold and fierce, sent an electric current to the bondman's heart which told him that his master had lost. And he had.
"The slave begged, but there was no use, for the owner had passed through a losing week, and as he never allowed his gambling debts to stand over night the man had to be transferred without more ado. After that the slave was

former master. "The remarkable part about that bondman's career was that he finally got back to his original owner through a daring bluff in a poker game. Before the war they played poker in Charles-ton, as elsewhere, on a different prin-

the regular attendant in the gambling

house, and he often watched with in-

terest the occasional plunging of his

ciple from today.
"The five cards were dealt, and a player was not allowed to draw and better his hand. He had to take pot luck. There was not much science game got the universal name of bluff. "The colonel happened to be in the place where his old valet was a porter when a big game was started. While he played fare in the public house he never sat down to a poker table, but

he took a chance this night. "He told me afterward that he was seized with a sudden desire to get the negro again. His conscience had al-ways pricked him, he said, because Lewis, the slave, was faithful to a high degree.

When the game got well under way there was more or less high betting and more or less bluffing. The colonel got the plunging fever en one deal be-fore he had looked at his cards. "As the betting started he sent the chips in so rapidly that all the players dropped out with the exception of the gambier who ran the place. He came

back at the colonel every time the latter raised. "'Look here, Bill,' said the colonel, as he pulled a fresh cigar from his pocket, 'I'll make you a stiff bet right here if you'll put that nigger up against my roll."

'This talk naturally drew the crowd nearer on the table. It was merely a toss-up as to who had the best hand.
"The colonel's cards were lying face down on the table. He was lighting cigar without showing a tremor of ex-

"The gambler wrote off a slip of aper. It was a bill of sale for Lewis, and he tossed it in the pot. "Quick as a flash the colonel came back with a sum, the equivalent, and without any hesitation he tossed in a roll of bills that could not have been less than \$2,000.

'And I'll raise you,' he said, in the same unruffled tose.
"The gambler looked at his hand "'You've got me beat,' he said, 'and there isn't any use to throw bad

money after a bad nigger. Take the pot,' he added, and with that he disclosed three fives.
"'Why, that's good, old man,' said the colonel, as a big smile came over his face, 'for I didn't have so much as a pair of treys.'

The deed was done, however, and after serving his time as a poker chip, Lewis went back to the colonel and nursed him until he was sent to his little resting place in the family burial

A BABY CHANGED

The Mother Tells How It Was Accomplished.

"A wonderful change," is the verdict of a lady correspondent who writes us about her little one. "I take pleasure," writes Mrs. R. B. Bickford, of Glen Sutton, Que., "in certifying to the merits of Baby's Own Tablets, as I have found them a sure and reliable remedy. My baby troubled with indigestion, and was teething, and cross and restless, and the use of the Tablets made a wonderful change. I think the timely use of Baby's Own Tablets might save many a dear little life, and I would recommend mothers to keep them in the

The opinion of this wise mother is echoed by other correspondents. Baby's Own Tablets give such comfort and relief to a sick baby, they so infallibly produce calm, peaceful sleep, that you would almost think them a narcotic. But they are not. They are only a health-giver for children of any age. They cannot possibly do harm—they always do good. May be had from druggists, or by mail, postpaid, at 25 eents a box by writing direct to the Dr. Williams' Medicine Company, Brockville, Ont., or Schenectady, N

Elijah Norton, of Bangor, Me., has a fox farm near that city. Ask for Minard's and take no other

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MONTREAL, P. Q.

BEST AGE OF THE PLAYWRIGHT

Evidence Is That Best Works Came Late in Life.

History Does Not Support Theory That Best Work is Cone in Middle Age.

BEST AGE OF PLAY-DISPLAY. It is a favorite theory with men who Write plays that the pest work of a gramatist is done when he is micdleaged. Probably as playwrights grow older they are more and more in-clined to take this view. But history

seems to support this theory. One notable instance among contemporary writers is Henrik Ibsen. who began the series of social dramas that has made him tamous after he has passed by.

Victorien Sardou, who is now 71. wrote "Dicorcons," "Fedora," "La Tosca" and "mme. Sans-Gene" atter he was 50, and he was 47 when he gave to the world "Diplomacy," which has been one or his most enduringly successful plays. He wrote many successiul plays when he was a young magnifying gass the test can readily man, but those of his later years have been, as a rule, much more successful. Arthur Wing Pinero is now 47, and amining rubles and emeralds. he was 38 before "The Second Mrs. commonly supposed that such stones Tanqueray," his greatest success, was acted.

Hermann Sudermann found his greatest success when he was a few years younger than Mr. Pinero. He exhaustive. The best plan is to exwas only 35 when "Magaa" was acted amine them closely with a microscope plays has been so successful, but that has been due, in a measure, to his selection of less popular themes. The success of the very young

dramatists has always been marked in Sudermann's country. The demigods of the past are scarcely to be compared with the working dramatists of our day, but it is worth while to record that Schiller was not yet 22 when in the summer of 1781 "The Robbers" was first produced. And Coethe was not 24 when "Gotz von Berlichingen" proclaimed that a new dramatist had

Theodore Korner's "Zriny," which has a certain popularity to this day in Germany, was written when the Writer has just jassed his 21st year. Although dramatists in Germany have produced three great plays while they were still very young, their best efforts have come with maturity. Thus Lessing wrote a comedy called "Damon" when he was 18, but he was 34 before his talents showed themselves fully in "Minna von Barnheim." He was 43 when "Emilia Galotti" was acted, and "Nathan the Wise" peared in his fiftieth year. And in Goethe's case his greatest work. Faust," came late in his life.

One investigator who has gone back to antiquity to prove that the best work of dramatists is cone late in me discovered that Sophocies was 94 when he wrote "Oilipus at Colonus," when he wrote "Antigone" and in the sixties when his other plays were

Aeschylus was 67 when he wrote the "Orestes" trilogy and Euripides 41 pe-fore any of his plays won a prize. He was nearly 50 when he completed "Medea."

The exception to this classic group is found in Aristophanes, who began his career at the age of 17 and wrote successful comedies at the age of 21 and 22, although his best work came when he was in the thirties.

Shakespeare, who died at the age of 52, had his greatest successes during the last ten years of his life. Racine was nearly 60 when "Athalie" was produced, and the most successful of Moliere's comedies belong to the later years of his life.

Corneille was only 30, however, when he found success in "Le Cid." Edmond Rostand is another instance of the young dramatist who does not have to wait for success. He was in the early thirties when, in 1897, "Cyrane de Bergerac" was acted first. Among the American dramatists Clyde Fitch, who is now 37, found success before the majority of his col-

leagues. Bronson Howard was 36 when "The Banker's Daughter" was a success at the Union Square Theater. William Gillette was 42 when "Secret Service," his most popular and best play, was acted. David Belasco, who is about 45, met with his first triumph as a dramatist five years ago in "The Heart of Maryland.'

So there is no reason why any aspiring dramatist should lose hope as he sees the years pass, although all would undoubtedly prefer to be included in that small class that wins success in youth.

A Befitting Name.

Capt. H. St. George Lindsay, of the White Star liner Celtic was asked the other day why it was that his company persisted in giving its steamers what seemed to him such singularly ill-fitting names-as Cymric, Cedric Georgic, and those proposed for the two recently put on the stocks, Corinthic and Athenic. Why always this "ic" at the end of the names?

"Well," responded Capt. Lindsay, "we believe, you know, in keeping up the famous 'ic' galaxy, following Majestic, Oceanic, Germanic, and the rest, and it is possible that the next boat the company builds will be named

Simple But Scientific Ways of Judging Gems.

Anyone can tell a genuine diamond or precious stone even from a very clever imitation, says the London Express. There are a tew household tests which are practically infallible. The diamond expert, after long years of experience with gems, can detect an imitation, as a rule, at a glance. The layman in such matters, with a few simple tests, takes more time to solve such problems, but his judgment in the end is scarcely less accurate.

An imitation diamond is never so brilliant as a genuine stone. If your eye is not experienced enough to detect the difference a very simple test is to place the stone under water. The imitation stone is practically extinguished, while a genuine diamond sparkles even under water, and is distinetly visible. When possible place genuine stone beside the possible imitation under water and the contrast will be apparent to the least experienced eyes.

The glass-cutting test is, of course more or less familiar. It is probably the most common. False diamonds are usually cut more regularly than the genuine stones. In cutting a diamond the material is saved as far as possible. In any imitation the material is itself worthless, and no attention is made to suit the size or angle of the facets to the form of the stone. It can be put down as a safe rule that when a stone is cut with great evenness and regularity it is, to say the

least, a very suspicious sign.

Another very simple and effective ---test is to place a drop of water on the stone and carefully observe the result. The stone should first be carefully cleaned. On an imitation diamond the drop, however small, will deliquesce. The drop will, however, retain original shape on a true stone. To

make the test quite sure use a magnifying glass when watching the action Still another test of this nature is to pass the stone over a piece of aluminium. Both the metal and the

stone should be absolutely free from any traces of grease. The metal will give off some of its color to an imitation stone, while a genuine diamond will remain perfectly clear and un-affected. Among jewelers the final test is to apply a drop of fluohydric acid to the stone under suspicion. The acid will eat into any false diamond and frost it, while the genuine stones will not be damaged in the slightest degree.

Perhaps the simplest method of all, however, is to examine an ink spot on a sheet of white paper through a dia- LONDON BOX MFG. & LUMBER mond, by holding the upper surface against the eye. If the stone pe counterfeit the black spot will greatly multliplied, or at least doubled. The outline will, moreover, appear ELLIOTT, MARR & CO., 533 Rich. blurred and indistinct. be made absolute.

The optical test is the best in excan be best tested by rubbing them with a file, that the genuine stones resist the steel, while the imitations only will suffer; but the test is not in Berlin. None of his subsequent of about 100 diameters. The genuine stones have a number of minute flaws. much more nearly perfect in texture.

Britons Play Too Much.

After the Englishman remarks complacently: "It will come out all right," he is apt to leave his office for the rest of the afternoon and go to a football or cricket game. While he works he accomplishes as much as any one can. but, at most, business hours limit his endeavor. He will not work night ar day, as many American wealthy my are in the habit of doing. He does business, but he doesn't mean business. He is not eager for the "joy of achievement." He throws his heart into the play on the ball field rather than into the work at the office. Mr. Kipling's lines about the "danneled fools and the muddled oafs" struck the center somewhat harshly, perhaps-of a great truth. The newspapers are full of the latest news about the royalty. These worthics are usually at the race courses

HOW TO TEST DIAMONDS or the games in the afternoon. The 7 are at the theater in the evening, and if there is a choice between a ballat the Empire and "Faust" at it. Lyceum, they are likely to pass Irving by for the ballet. The newspapers have a way of publishing what they call "stop-press news," news that is important enough to stop the presses to insert. It is almost entirely sporting news, cricket, foot ball, racing the like. And Kipling isn't the only Englishman who sees the tendency.

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