

the celebrated crown jewels of Europe have been derived from India. The Deccan mines were practically closed at the beginning of the last century, when the Brazilian mines were opened.

In their turn the Brazilian stones have been largely displaced by those from Kimberley which furnishes four-fifths of the diamonds annually supplied to the world. Australian diamonds are not numerous in the market. They are noted for excessive hardness, which renders polishing very difficult; but they are admirably suited for dressing stones, rock drills, and a variety of mechanical purposes.

Diamonds differ very greatly in size, colour, and shape. They vary from a pin's head to a stone of $428\frac{1}{2}$ carats in the rough—the largest ever found in South Africa. It was cut, losing 200 carats in the process, and exhibited at the Paris exhibition in 1889. A native tried to take it from the mine, but his brother informed upon him. It measured $1\frac{3}{8}$ inches through the longest axis, and $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch square. The diamond occurs in all shades of colour, from deep yellow, which are high-priced, to straw yellow, which are of low value, and there are stones of deep and light browns, green, blue, pink, orange, blue-white, pure white, and opaque.

After the diamonds are received in the rough they are cut and polished, principally in Amsterdam. The industry is also carried on largely at Antwerp, and is extending to Paris, Switzerland, and America. It is practised in London also. The world now purchases about £5,000,000 worth per annum, of which it is estimated America takes about £3,000,000—*The School Newspaper*.

THE SWISS WATCHMAKING INDUSTRY.—According to the latest report from the British Legation in Berne, the Swiss watchmaking in-

dustry is assured a long period of stability by the commercial treaties concluded with Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Italy, while the exports to the Danubian States, British India, and Australia are steadily increasing. The recent creation of commercial schools in several of the watchmaking centres is regarded with much satisfaction by the trade as likely to complete the work already done by the technical schools in which watchmaking is taught. The combined instruction of these two classes of schools will train a set of men fitted by their technical and commercial education, and by their knowledge of languages, to represent the great export houses abroad, and to dispose of their goods directly in the best markets. The smaller and less important houses which cannot afford to have a representative of their own will probably combine together to appoint one to represent their common interests. Many of the disadvantages of the present system, such as the excessive profits of middlemen, will thus, it is hoped, be done away with while manufacturers will be enabled to ascertain with more ease and greater accuracy than at present the real demands of foreign markets. Good results are also expected from a law recently passed in the canton of Neuchatel on the subject of apprenticeship, by which apprentices are placed under the supervision of competent authorities, delegated for that purpose by the communes, who are to see that all receive thorough instruction in their adopted callings, while the technical knowledge and professional aptitude of the apprentices are to be ultimately tested by an examination.—*The Financial Standard and Imperial Post (Eng.)*

Every man has in himself a continent of undiscovered character; happy is he who acts the Columbus to his own soul.