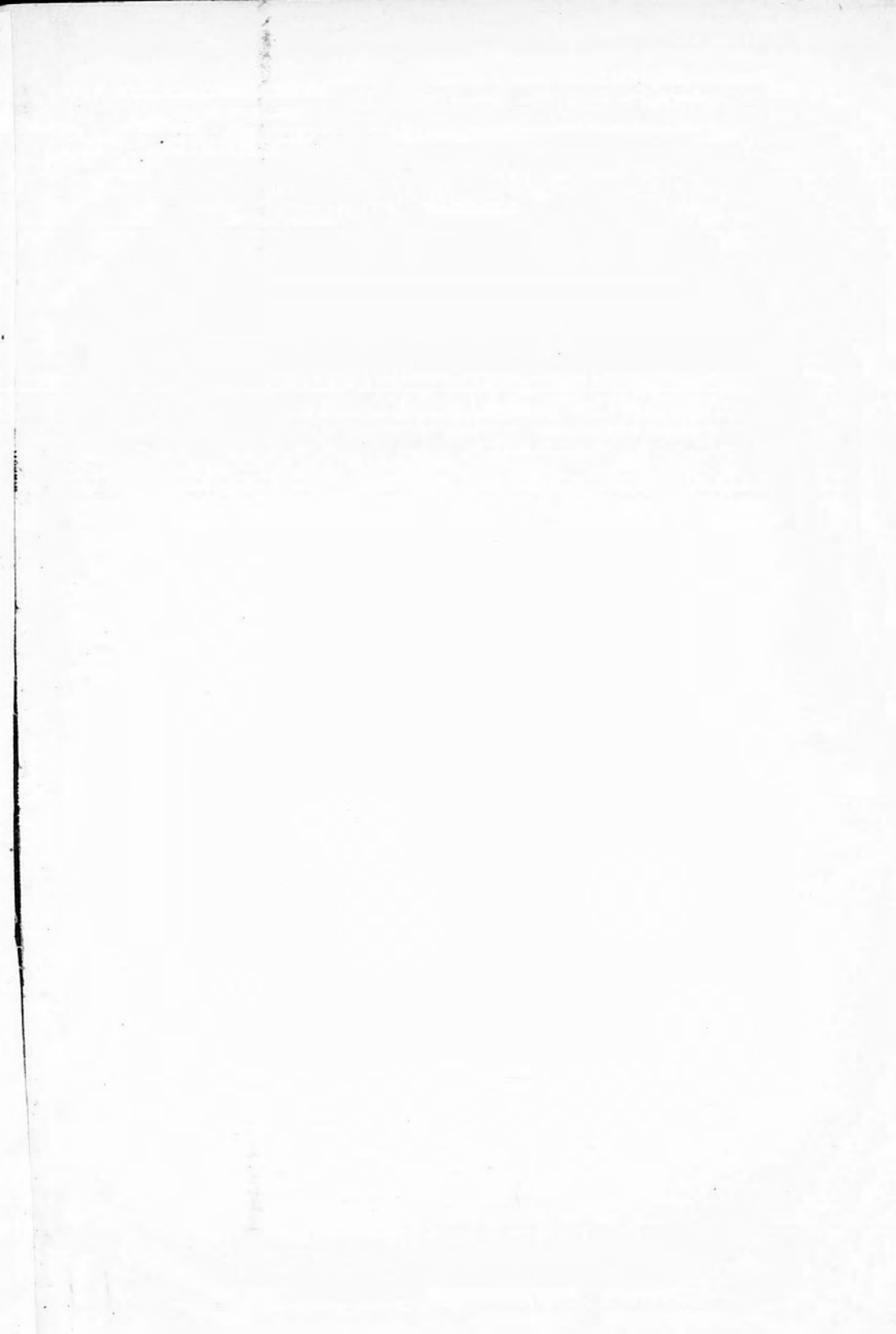


vol. 32.



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PART I.

1887.

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There are no papers devoted exclusively to Archaeology, but the following have very good departments. Subscriptions 25c. per year.
Curiosity World, Lake Village,
New Hampshire.
Exchangers' Monthly 284 Pavonia
Avenue, Jersey City, N. J.
Youths' Ledger, Helmetta, N. J.

I find that many young collectors are puzzled over the war point.

When they obtain one they do not know what it is, and exchange or pass it off as they do the more common arrow heads. The war-point is a three-cornered arrow-head without a shank. The shaft of the arrow was split, the war-point inserted and then wrapped in the sinews of the deer. The first impulse of the person shot was to draw out the shaft, which always left the point to work its way in. As poisoned points were used it can be supposed that the wounds always proved fatal. The war-points are of benefit to the archaeologist, as in many cases they determine the localities of ancient battlefields. Imperfect specimens are quite common, but fine, perfect ones are extremely rare, owing to there being so easily broken. JOSEPH WIGGLESWORTH,

From Youths' Ledger

Wampum was the name given to small beads made of shells, used by the North American Indians as money, and also wrought into belts and other ornaments. It was of two kinds, one being white and the other black, or of a dark purple color. It consisted of cylindrical pieces of the shells of testaceous [hard shelled] fishes, $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch long and a pipe stem in diameter, drilled lengthwise, so as to be strung upon a thread. The white beads rated at half the value of the black or violet, passed each as the equivalent of a farthing in transactions between the natives and the early settlers.

Museum Bulletin.

The great sculptured stone of Montezuma, in Mexico, is a striking proof of the extent to which granite can be sculptured with stone implements. Gama in his work describing this stone, states that 10,000 Indians were employed in transporting it from its place, where it was sculptured by 30 work-men with stone-axes.

The North American Indian presented a pipe to any one they wished to be on good terms with.

To receive the pipe and smoke together was to promote friendship and good will, but to refuse the offer was virtually a declaration of hostility. *Museum Bulletin.*

Double-grooved stone axes have been found on Tunnel Hill, near Phoenixville, Pa.

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PUBLICATIONS.

The *Curiosity Reporter*, Wm. Rienecke-Elkader Iowa. 4 pages. 15c. per year. Advertising rates 15c per inch.

This Department includes collectors of Post-marks, Shells, Auto-graphs, Insects, and general curiosities.

Bay State Collector, Marlboro, Mass. Subscriptions 25c. per year. Adv. rates 40c. per inch. 8 pages. *The Collector* Easton, Md. 25 cents per year. Adv. rates 25c. per inch. Circulation 1000.

Common Sense, F. A. Thomas, Mexico, N. Y. 4 pages, 12 columns. 25 cents per year. Advertising rates 40 cents per inch. Circulation 2000.

The Conchologists' Exchange, Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia, Pa. 35c. per year. 12 pages.

Old Curiosity Shop, Will M. Clemens, Editor. W. B. Brockway; Pub. Jamestown, N. Y. Subscription 25c. per year, Adv. rates 10c. per line; \$1 per inch. Circulation 3000 copies. 8 pages and cover.

NOTES

The list of beetles on the American Continent numbers 9490 species.

The Epidermis may be removed from sea-shells by boiling them in a strong solution of potash.

The strongest wood in the United States is the nutmeg hickory of Arkansas. The most elastic is the tamarack.

If you are not a collector we advise you to start in some branch, at once. You will soon cease to wonder why it is there are so many collectors.

A good gum for labels may be made as follows: Dextrine, 2 oz.; glycerine, 1 drachm; alcohol, 1 oz.; water, 4 oz.

Reptiles, such as frogs, toads and snakes, may be easily skinned by pulling the body out through the mouth, then poison and fill with fine sand which can be removed through pin holes when dry.

If you are the happy possessor of a cabinet, don't put it in a dark room, lock the door and keep your friends out. Put it where light and sunshine make it most attractive, and where every one may see the many curious and beautiful objects of nature.—C. E. MASON

The coast of Alaska possesses a remarkable ichthyological curiosity in a candle fish. It is about eight inches long, transparent and very pure white fat. The Indians dry this fish, and then light it at the tail. It burns with a clear sparkling flame which a wind cannot extinguish. The fish will burn for a number of hours.

In recent explorations in Washington Territory there was discovered in a ledge of conglomerate and trap rock the petrified remains of thousands of fish—salmon, smelt and cod. In attempting to remove specimens of each kind, they were broken, and proved to be as hard and white as flint on the inside.

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ologists' Dep't.

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This list might be increased indefinitely, as the mineral is by no means an uncommon one.

There is one factory in San Francisco which produces Asbestos paint coating for steam boilers, packing for pipes and engines, and Asbestos for roofing and like purposes.

The American asbestos is usually characterized by a short fibre, and by being somewhat brittle and harsh.

These qualities, while unfitting it to a greater or less extent for such purposes as the manufacture of rope, etc., in which a long fibre, is required, do not injure it for the manufacture of paints, cement, packing, etc., for which purpose is preferred to the imported as to deviate from a direct course.

Imported Asbestos comes mainly from the province of Quebec, Canada, and is perhaps the best for general uses.

There is plenty of Asbestos in California for manufacturing purpose which could probably be in San Francisco for \$35 per ton, but the demands for the products is not sufficient to justify large mining operations.

The better qualities of the Quebec asbestos bring \$75 to \$100 per ton in New York, while the price of the poorer grade ranges as low as \$40 per ton.

For the manufacture of cloth, drop curtains, etc., Italian asbestos is principally used, as it has a long, silky, tough fibre, well fitted for the purpose. This brings in New York from \$100 to \$350 per ton.

WM. J. BUCKLEY.

For the Peerless Directory.

GEODES.

[BY R. T. READ.]

One of the most interesting, as well as beautiful, of nature's productions are the round, hollow concretions known as geodes.

Their external appearance is rough and unsightly, but upon being broken are found to be lined with most beautiful groups of crystals, usually quartz.

The formation of geodes is a question which has been the subject of much discussion, but after carefully considering the subject I have come to the conclusion that geodes were formed in this manner: It is a well known fact that material when wet tends to form into balls. Just so with geods. Earth or silicious matter upon being wet forms into balls, which in turn becomes dry and hardened. As the inside dried

it would shrink up, leaving a cavity, which in the course of time would become lined with crystals or other matter. In size geodes vary from those the size of a marble to those as large as a bucket. Among the amygdaloids of trap are found geodes of agate and chalcedony, the shell made up of concentric layers of these variously colored siliceous matters. Besides quartz crystals, others of calcareous spar, malachite, etc. are found lining cavities. Some of the most remarkable specimens of this kind in the quartz geodes are found loose in the Upper Mississippi during the low water. Keokuk is another splendid locality.

Water is sometimes found in the geodes, holding the siliceous solution and making with it milky looking mixture. As the water evaporates the siliceous has been known to suddenly form into a delicate crystals.

Such geodes were abundantly found on Brier Creek, in Scriven or Burke county, Georgia, in a rock composed of hornstone and jasper.

The milky fluid contained in them was used by the natives as paint or white-wash.

Young Geologist.

Magnetite or Lodestone is the only mineral that has a magnetic attraction.

Kaolin is a clay formed from decomposed feldspar.

A peculiar natural substance has been found in Georgia, a yellow material very much like bees-wax, which, when shaved off with a knife rolls up like that article. It is a kind of mineral, and while there is nothing about it that burns it becomes hard as flint when heated.

In preparing sections of rock for microscopical study, which are exceedingly porous or full of cavities, such as pumice-stone, or of a crossy character, or friable and fragile, as tufa, first boil them in Canada balsam, to make possible the grinding of a plane surface, as the balsam forcing its way into the cavities, and becoming solid on cooling, imparts to the whole greater degree of consistency. Sections easily shattered may be prepared more safely by Canada balsam dissolved in ether or chloroform. —T. S. ASH.

A manganese mine has been discovered on a farm near Roanoke, Virginia. The deposit is 19 feet thick.

Amazon stone is a variety of Microcline and is generally of a greenish color. It is supposed to be of organic origin. The finest specimens are found in the vicinity of Pike's Peak, Col.

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it would shrink up, leaving a cavity, which in the course of time would become lined with crystals or other matter. In size geodes vary from those the size of a marble to those as large as a bucket. Among the amygdaloids of trapare found geodes of agate and chalcedony, the shell made up of concentric layers of these variously colored silicious matters. Besides quartz crystals, others of calcareous spar, analcime, etc. are found lining cavities. Some of the most remarkable specimens of this kind in the quartz geodes are found loose in the Upper Mississippi during the low water. Keokuk is another splendid locality.

Water is sometimes found in the geodes, holding the silix in solution and making with it milky looking mixture. As the water evaporates the silix has been known to suddenly form into a delicate crystals.

Such geodes were abundantly found on Brier Creek, in Scriven or Burke county, Georgia, in a rock composed of hornstone and jasper.

The milky fluid contained in them was used by the natives as paint or white-wash.

Young Geologist.

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HOW TO KEEP YOUR COINS.

BY ELLIS PARKER.

When I first gathered a few old coins together, five or six perhaps, I carefully polished them on a bit of carpet and wrapped them up separately in chamois skin. In this manner they were always kept bright and unscratched, but I soon found that it was a great deal of trouble to unroll them every time I desired to show them to my friends especially as they became more and more numerous.

While casting around for some new way to keep them, I saw a collection of medals hung upon hooks, and straightway proceeded to bore a hole in each of my pieces and to hang them on hooks. This arrangement proved very satisfactory until I learned that my collection was worth only one-half of its original value, and all on account of these small holes in them.

Seeing that some better way must be discovered, I proceeded to get a board one and one half feet wide by two long, and to mark it off into a large number of small squares. In the center of each of these squares I bored a hole about the size of a coin; but not quite so large, so that it took considerable pressing to get the coin into the hole. I then obtained a piece of velvet, worth probably forty or fifty cents, and securely glued it on the board. After allowing this board to stand until the glue should become sufficiently hardened I cut away the cloth over the holes so that a margin still remained. Thus when the coin was pressed in, velvet covered the edge of the hole and gave it a finished appearance. Placing this board in a walnut frame, covered by a sliding glass, I had it all complete at an outlay of less than a dollar. If you wish to have it a little more fancy you can divide the coins from each other by very narrow gilt moulding, or if this is unobtainable by gilt braid. This does very well, in fact excellently for a small collection.

The various manners for providing for a large collection practiced by different collectors show a great diversity of taste, as well as a great deal of ingenuity. Cleanliness, safety, and display constitute the most desirable features of a coin cabinet; and to secure these in an inexpensive manner, or at least in the least in the least expensive manner possible, has been the aim of young col-

lectors from the earliest days of collecting.

A glass case or a case with a glass front does very well, for it allows inspection without subjecting the coins to that handling and fingering so annoying to a careful collector. A cabinet of drawers, which need not be very deep, is always the first idea of a collector and I suppose always will be and it also one of the best for a lock and key is as safe a protector as anything can be. As to the arranging of the coins in the drawer, the best way is to have small boards in which shallow holes are made so as to let the coins in only with considerable force. Gimlet holes through the back of the boards will furnish a way of getting the coins out. Having them pressed in tightly, renders almost impossible.

The bottoms of the drawers will serve very well instead of the board, and may be fixed up to suit the taste in any neat manner. Different drawers may be used for different countries or different ages as your collection demands division. The drawers are better if very shallow, but walnut boards half an inch thick which slide back and forth easily are to be preferred.

Still even a deep drawer may be used by having trays or boards on hinges so as to shut inside, thus throwing the coins face downward when the drawer is closed. Of course if the coins are fastened in the man-

ner described above, they will not fall out.

Another good way, and one which displays the coins splendid advantage, is to have a large case with glass doors and a slanting shelf or board on which to arrange the coins. This may be either fixed with the bottom of the shelf at the back of case, thus standing is outward towards the top; or with the top of the shelf at the back, which will slant it outward towards the bottom. If the case is to be placed low so that a person would have to glance downward, it is better to have it fixed in the latter manner, but if the case is elevated the former is to be preferred. If you stop a moment you will see the reason for this.

These I think are some of the best methods of arranging coins, but of course there are many others equally as good, for almost every collector has a way peculiar to himself. One of the most unique collections that I have seen is a set of cents, each of which is inclosed in a small volume of bark, the entire set being on a miniature book case. They have "History of U. S. Cents" on each volume, and are really a superb lot.

The American Numismatist

Copper coins should not be cleaned with acids. Sweet oil is the only thing that will loosen the dirt without injury to the piece. The cleaning agent should be removed with a piece of soft flannel.

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PUBLICATIONS.

The *Oologist*, Frank H. Lattin,
Publisher, Albion, N. Y. Sub. Price
50c. per year. Adv. Rates \$1 per
inch 20 pages and cover.

Start a collection of birds eggs
and see what an instructive branch
it is.

DIRECTIONS FOR COLLECTING BIRDS' EGGS.

Collect all eggs in sets and preserve nest with set whenever practicable. When nests built in bushes or among reeds and rushes or hanging from small branches of trees are collected, cut off the portion of the bush, seeds or branch to which the nest is attached instead of tearing it away. A set consists of all the eggs found in the nest.

Each egg of the nest must be marked with the same number. For example: each egg of the first set found should be marked 1; of the second 5, and so on. If the nest is also collected, a piece of paper having the SAME NUMBER as that on the egg must be securely fastened to it. Eggs must be blown through one small hole at the side. After drilling the hole, hold the egg over a basin of water, hole down, and blow into the egg through the blow-pipe; after emptying, rinse thoroughly by forcing water into the shell and place on clean blotting paper to drain. Mark each egg with the number corresponding to the Smithsonian catalogue and set mark as above. If the egg is far advanced in the incubation, drill a large hole, and with fine, sharpened scissors, cut the embryo into small pieces and extract with embryo hooks.

Use a soft, sharp-pointed lead pencil marking eggs, never use ink, and

write nothing but number on the egg.

ALWAYS BE SURE what species of bird the nest belongs to before taking it, as doubtful sets are of no value. If the name of the bird owning the nest is unknown, try to shoot or snare the bird and cut off the head, wing, tail and leg. Rub some powdered arsenic into the flesh and wrap in paper, marking with the same number as on the eggs and nest.

Pack eggs for sending away in cotton batting wrapping each egg separate in a piece of batting, and where the nests are taken, place the eggs in their nests fill up the nest with cotton. Be sure that the eggs do not touch each other. Put some cotton in the bottom of a WOODEN box and put in a layer of eggs, then cover with cotton and put in more eggs, and so on till within a couple of inches of the top, when fill the box with cotton and put on the cover. If you have nests to pack wrap each in paper and place on bottom filling between them with cotton and then put in eggs which have no nests.

Common Sense.

The impression that birds and insects disappear from localities about to be visited by virulent epidemics seems to be growing stronger and stronger among our European scientists, many of whom propose to make special investigations of the matter.

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As many sheets as required, of pearl tinted Photographer's Mount Card-boards, 22x28 inches, or in four, so as to make 11x14 inches and round the corner with a templet, so as to make them all alike. Pearl tint is better than white, as it will not turn yellow. Rule a neat but heavy bright red line the sheets as a border about one half an inch from the edges. Now design places for stamps with double lines, a little larger than stamps, and put name of Country at top, on one side of sheets only endeavor to group them properly together in some striking manner and keeping an an issue on one line if possible. If the larger sheets be used, a large number of countries will occupy but one sheet. Put only one country on a sheet. Put all in covered Artistic Paste-board box (exactly the size of sheets,) with one end so it will drop

Continued on Page 28.

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Designs for holding medicine stamps may be made in form of a bottle and look prettily, and Playing cards stamps in form of a club, a heart, a diamond and a spade in red and black.

From P. J. of A.

ODDITIES IN STAMPS.

BY WILL M. CLEMENS.

The smallest stamp ever issued was the one half penny of Victoria, issue 1874. In remarkable contrast is the largest stamp, the registered letter stamp of the United States of Colombia of 1866, which is five by two and one half inches. The stamps of Russia are printed in water colors, the only ones in the world so printed. Wet them and the colors easily rub off. There are no Russian Colonial stamps, Russia possessed but one colony, Alaska and that she sold to the United States.

During the war between Chili and Peru in 1883, the Chilian forces took charge of the post office at

Lima, and gained possession of all the Peruvian stamps which they surecharged with the arms of Chili. In addition to her postage stamps the old mother country, the only original Egypt, has over 200 varieties of official stamps. They are round and look like pill box labels, and are used for official business by town dignitaries. Russian locals are ugly and very rare, and some of them resemble tombstones. The native government of India issue some of the queerest stamps. Those of Cashmere, Alwur, Bhopal, Cabul and Rajpeepla are horrible nightmares in appearance. The odd and ugly stamps of the Roman States are reminders of the departed glory of the Paparchy, which was swallowed up by free Italy. They all have the Papal tiara and keys. Some of the early issues of the Nevis stamps are embellished with a figure of the Goddess of Health, "Hyglia," offering a glass of water from a mineral spring on the island to an invalid. The peculiar signature of the sultan is found on nearly every stamp issued by the Turkish government.

Capital City Philatelist.

The \$5000 U. S. Revenue that was prepared by the government was never issued or used. A specimen proof on cardboard was sold in New York for \$41.

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