

## Mystic Jewels Are India's Pride

**Diamonds That Weep When Moon is Full, Elephant and Cobra Pearls, Emeralds and Rubies That Bring Rain and Disease, Hidden in the Vaults.**

### BAFFLE SCIENTISTS

London—Mysterious and inexplicable are the gems that abound in the Indian Empire and Burma, even in these days of the twentieth century. Some jewels come to the notice of the scientists and they cannot explain them or their origin. They are not mere freaks of nature.

There are diamonds that seem to weep when the moon is full; there are pearls from the head of the King Cobra which make rain; there are rubies, scarlet purple in tint, which cure blood poisoning; there are emeralds which remove skin diseases, gems wonderful to behold and almost impossible to value. But these are held secret, hidden carefully for generations in gigantic vaults, the entrance to which is known only to the heads of the old families who are proud to possess them.

Some of them come to light on rare occasions, when an old palace is pulled down to make room for a factory, or a poor agriculturist comes upon a hidden store in a new plot of ground which he is trying to bring under cultivation.

### Finds Radioactive Diamond

A few months ago a common looking antique necklace, belonging to the royal family of Tanjore in south India, was sold in the Sowkarpeth or Bankers Lane in Madras. The purchaser, desiring to give it as a present to his daughter-in-law on New Year's Day, gave it for resetting. The jeweler found that the diamond, hanging as a pendant, was a very peculiar one, brought it back to the owner and suggested that it should be reset as a ring. It weighed five and one-half carats. The owner kept it to consult other jewelers.

On examination it was found to contain wonderful properties. It was generally of a bluish tint, but during the day it took on a rosy shade. The moment it was brought under the direct rays of the sun, however, it turned full blue. When taken into a dark room it gave out no light at all. In the evening he went to open the safe and was astonished to find the whole safe flooded with brilliant moonlight. The diamond was illuminating the whole interior of the safe. He lifted it up and found that the wad of cotton wool on which he had placed the jewel was wet.

It was found that the stone lost its luster when the moon waned and would not give any light during the day. Tradition has it that there are jewels called the sun and moon stones which glow in darkness only when the sun or moon is shining. The mythology of the Hindus gives a story of how Krishna, the eighth incarnation of Vishnu, had to fight a bear demon for the sake of a sun stone.

### Elephant Pearl from Ceylon

From Ceylon comes the wonderful elephant pearl. "Until I examined this jewel myself," said Dr. Joseph Pearson, director of the Colombo Museum, "I had been under the impression that the references to these pearls in Oriental literature were more of a kind of mythological legend than reality." Mr. G. Rodrigo, of Colombo, Ceylon, the possessor of this unique gem, had taken the elephant pearl to the director for his opinion.

It weighs twelve carats, has shining brilliant hues with creamy golden tint and is supposed to be 2,000 years old. The pearl was examined under a microscope and was found to have the basis of ivory. All the old tests of Indian jewels were tried, and it came out triumphant under them all. It was examined by the American Consul at Colombo, W. A. Leonard, and he found it to be perfect. Under its almost transparent pearl film one could see a complete form of a white elephant, correct in every detail.

Mr. Rodrigo was flooded with requests from New York collectors, who had heard of it through Mr. Leonard, with offers of purchase. "It is one of Ceylon's proud possessions, and it will never leave this island," said Mr. Rodrigo in reply to these requests.

Varaha Mihir, an Indian writer on jewels of the fourth century, mentions that an elephant pearl is found in the head or the root of the tusks of an elephant born when the sun is passing through the sign of Capricorn with the moon in the Pushya or Shrivana. "This pearl," he says, "is never to be bored or valued and so in this science of gems I cannot give its value."

### Describes Mystic Pearls

Varaha Mihir also gives eight different kinds of pearls that are of mystic value: one, elephant; two, cobra; three, shell; four, conch; five, storm; six, bamboo; seven, crocodile, and eight, wild bear. He gives the properties of the various pearls and indicates how and when they are found. The storm pearl is said to drop from the skies in a first cloud burst and is of the color and size of the pomegranate seed, shining like a flash of lightning and makes the

possessor immune from storm accidents or dangers of electrocution. Tradition says that the cobra jewel shines in the night and that the cobra feeds on the toads and mice and insects that are attracted by its light. The cobra takes it out and puts it on the ground, lying concealed beside it and preys upon the rodents which come near. He swallows it again and goes back to his hole. The jewel is said to melt and turn to poison when he is angry and so it is difficult to get, but there are instances where such jewels are found.

In the Poona district, 200 miles south of Bombay, a rich Zamindar obtained one such jewel. It has the property of curing all snake's bites. It sticks to the wound only when there is poison in the bite and falls off when the poison has been absorbed.

### Portrait in a Ruby

H. W. B. Moreno, member of the Legislative Council of Bengal, Calcutta, is the proud possessor of a ruby, which contains under its shining surface the image of a dark man, dressed in pugree (the national headdress of the Hindus) and clad in white robes. The face is dark brown and the closer one looks at the image the more luminous does the face appear. The director of the Geological Department of the Government of India pronounced the ruby one of great intrinsic value and said that it was a freak of nature without a parallel. This image appears clear through a thin halo of scarlet cloud forming the surface of the ruby. How the image came to be inside the ruby is a mystery as deep as that of the elephant pearl.

The King Thebaw, of Burma, had in his possession a wonderful pair of earrings made of rubies, containing underneath their surface perfect lotuses. These were stated to have the power of curing all blood poisoning. King Thebaw wore them to the day of his death. He gave them on that day to a devoted servant and they have not been heard of since. The Maharajah of Budi has in his possession an emerald cup of the deepest green tint. All skin diseases are cured by using the water kept in that cup for three hours in the sun.

A chief in Bombay has a mortar and pestle carved out of whole sapphires and gives the medicines made therein as a cure of anemia. In Trancore state there is an image of Ganesha, the Elephant God, cut out of a ruby and an image of Narayan, or Vishnu, cut out of a blue sapphire. Some of these jewels are only taken out on ceremonious occasions when they are worshipped and then restored to their secret vaults.

## Rocket Explosions Propel Motor-Car at Great Speed

### Solution Is Sought of Flying in the Highest Altitude of the Atmosphere

Berlin.—The "Opel Rocket Car," propelled forward by the explosion of rockets placed in the rear of the machine, was demonstrated for the first time on the Avus Speedway, attaining a speed variously estimated at 100 miles an hour. Fritz von Opel was at the wheel.

The car started with a terrific roar, emitting a sheet of flame and a cloud of yellow smoke as the successive rockets exploded. The machine gained momentum as one rocket after another, all of uniform power, was shot off, the car taking a lunge forward every time a fresh rocket exploded.

Von Opel said that the machine was not intended to revolutionize motoring, but was a practical step toward a solution of the problem of flying at a terrific speed through the highest altitudes of the earth's atmospheric strata, with the object of making a flight between Europe and America within a few hours or encircling the earth within a day.

A motor-driven airplane, he said, ceases to be effective at the highest altitudes because of inability to carry a requisite amount of oxygen. This obstacle, he said, can be overcome by the rocket system formula, which he said was discovered in an old Latin manuscript of 1420. Herr von Opel did not try for speed, although he said that during recent trials at Russelsheim-on-the-Main, with a driveless motor-car, a speed of 430 miles per hour was attained for a few seconds.

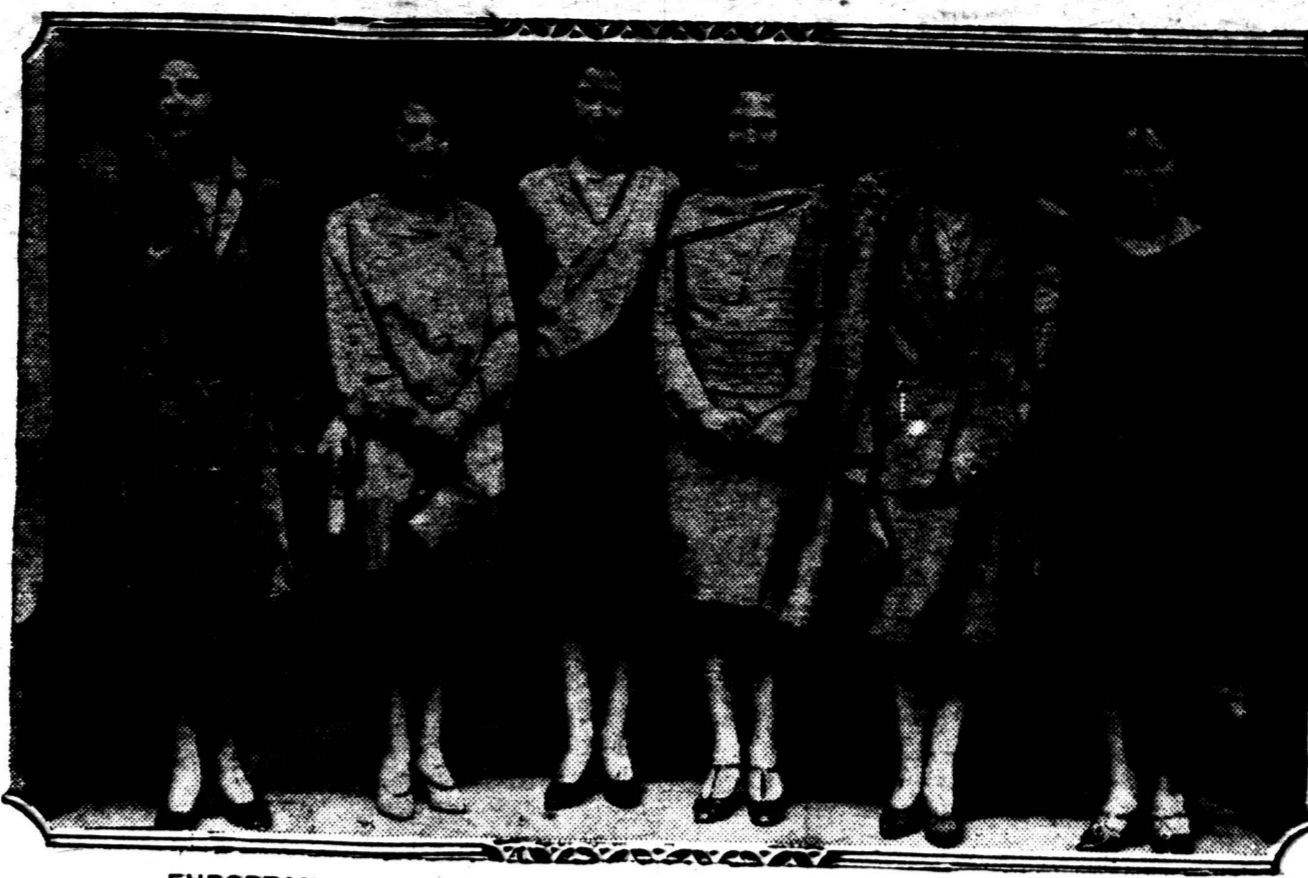
He is of the opinion that there is practically no limit to the speed which could be reached by the new machine, which has the appearance of the ordinary racing car, except that the back part consists of a steel chamber with 12 round openings, out of which penetrate the steel pipes from which the rockets are discharged.

Fuses are connected with the pipes and are linked up on an auto switch-board, and are controlled from the driver's seat. The rockets are discharged by means of an electric spark. The drawback to the new invention is that each rocket costs a small fortune.

Out of every dollar expended on making a movie film of importance, thirty cents go to the actors, nineteen to general expense and overhead, thirteen are divided among directors, authors and cameramen, five are spent on raw film and four on locations and costumes.

"I believe a horse understands more than a dog," "I don't." "Very likely—but I was speaking of the horse."

## Six of Europe's Fairest



EUROPEAN COMPETITORS FOR COVETED TITLE OF "MISS UNIVERSE"  
These girls will compete against beauties from all over the world at the coming International pageant of pulchritude to be held at Galveston, Texas, June 2nd to 5th. Left to right: Miss Italy, Miss Belgium, Miss France, Miss England, Miss Germany and Miss Spain.

## Chinese Famines

### The Two Causes of These Recurrent Famines Are Due to Drought and Flood.

#### Four Million Starving

China, engaged now in destructive civil war, is at the same time beset by her ancient enemy—famine. The reason why famine so often sweeps large sections of that populous country is explained in the following article. The writer of this article, which appeared in the New York Times, was formerly an adviser on railway administration to the Chinese Ministry of Communications.

#### By JOHN EARL BAKER

In the daily press you have been reading about an appalling famine in China. Four million fellow humans are starving. Ten million women, children, old men and old women are wandering about in search of food. Millions have surged into the province of Manchuria; perhaps the largest emigration in history. Perhaps a million have perished on the way. A correspondent estimates that Shantung has lost 9,000,000 of population in twelve months.

Why is China known as the land of famine? The answer cannot be given in a single sentence. The climate of North China is determined by prevailing winds. During the winter months these winds blow easterly from the continental plateau, upon which is the Gobi Desert. During the season, consequently, there is no rainfall and only rarely a light snow. During the summer these winds blow westerly from the Pacific Ocean, carrying with them the moisture which produces the summer rains. Thus the belt lying between Nanking and Peking receives most of its precipitation during June, July and August. This belt extends from the coast back some 400 miles to the plateau.

An occasional snow in winter, an early beginning or a late ending of the monsoon, is a frequent variation from the rule. If there is a good snowfall or two in the winter, one good shower during April and May, North China has a big year—a crop of wheat in June and a crop of millet, sorghum and beans in September. If the snows or the showers fail, there is only one crop—the fall crop.

#### Floods and Droughts

Frequently it happens that the year's moisture is nearly all crowded into the last two weeks of July and the first two weeks of August. Then rivers burst their banks and, as most of them have beds higher than the surrounding country, devastating

### Never Known to Fail

Troy, Pa.—After losing his unemployed maid, via matrimony, Hal Carpenter of this city resorted to advertising as a means to secure another. The ad ran: "Girl Wanted: The most successful matrimonial agency in Northern Pennsylvania wants a good girl for general housework. Two in family, washing done out. Marriage certificate guaranteed in reasonable time. All graduates from our home now happily married to fine men. Delays are dangerous, regrets are vain."

More frequent catastrophes—catastrophes more appalling—have been the inevitable result.

Here in America it is difficult for us to appreciate why the Chinese people do not collectively organize to build a new Government and improve their lot. A people with a tradition in self-government like ourselves do so in fifteen or twenty years. But the Chinese have no such tradition, no such experience. Imperial Government is all they have known. To learn any other is a tremendous task. The energies of all the national leaders are absorbed in that one necessary task.

Thus, where disasters overwhelm large areas it is left for us who are living under organized conditions to cope with the situation. For seven years an International Famine Relief Commission has attempted to do some work which formerly the Chinese Government funds have been placed under its supervision. In time of famine, instead of doles or opening soup kitchens, it organizes some needed work of repair or construction. It does a work or organization which in better days was assumed by the Government. Instead of giving charity it gives employment on work calculated to prevent the recurrence of these disasters. Payment is made in coarse foodstuffs for the laborer and his family in proportion to the work done.

Work in War-Time  
Because of the civil war, perhaps many wonder if it is possible to engage upon sizable construction works. The answer is that China is a big country. The armies move in fairly definite lanes toward well-known objectives. Hostilities are always of limited duration. Keep out of the line of action or "lay low" during actual fighting, and no more than the usual obstacles will be encountered. Labor under crude conditions. Disease is always something of a hazard. But to the initiated China famine worker these military campaigns are only minor obstacles.

If there were a settled Government in China starving Chinese would not look to this prosperous land for help. But there is no Government in any real sense of the word. The civil war is a struggle toward government. It is about the only method ever successfully used by man to produce new government. Some day China will have no need of American aid. But meanwhile millions starve—millions whom we can save—millions whose friendship can some day help tremendously toward a peaceful world order.

#### A Period of Decay

During the entire period of decay, river training, dike repair, the public granaries, like everything else connected with government, decayed also.

## Chinese Village Honors Father Who Killed Son Centuries Ago

Futsing, China.—The nearby mud-walled village of "Father Killed His Son" stands as a monument to the word of a Chinese general who fought Japanese invaders centuries ago. He was General Ts'i and lived when China was ruled by the Ming dynasty from 1368 to 1644. He was sent to Fukien Province to exterminate Japanese pirates who were ravaging the coast.

From Futsing, General Ts'i was about to start for the sea when informed by signal lights from the coastal hills that pirate boats were landing. Before going he drew up his troops and announced that any man who looked back after they left the walls of the city would be summarily executed.

The troops marched out and, when they reached the site of the present village of "Father Killed His Son" the general's own son looked back toward Futsing. The general himself beheaded the lad, and in the strength given by his example of faith to his word the army swept on to victory against the marauders.

See the country!—take down the billboards.  
A new airplane is equipped with a cart-table, probably to accustom passengers to the grand slam.

## A Strange Custom

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## Sunday School Lesson

June 17. Lesson XII—The Crucifixion  
—Mark 16: 22-26, 33-38. Golden Text—God commendeth his love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.—Rom. 5: 8.

### SUBJECT.

#### CHRIST'S DEATH AND THE PASSING OF THE OLD WORLD.

INTRODUCTION—The lesson to-day is taken up with the last tragic scenes in the earthly history of the Son of God, the crucifixion and the desolation of the last hours preceding his release. No event in all the world's history has so moved the imagination and heart of humanity, or created so glorious a hope as the event depicted here. What to the world's eye appears as disaster and defeat justifies itself in the spirit as the supreme victory of reconciling love. God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, and instituting a new world-age.

Of this fact, which constitutes the final significance of the death of Christ, there are two hints at the close of the lesson. The first is in v. 33, where we read that at Jesus' death the veil of the Temple was rent in two. This represents symbolically the end of the Jewish dispensation, and the passing of the glory of God from the Jewish ritual to the cross of Jesus. The second hint is the Gentile centurion's exclamation in v. 39. This is prophetic of the wider world's response to the appeal of Jesus Christ. Rejected by his own nation, Jesus becomes the Lord of a new humanity, which recognizes in him the supreme hero to whom its worship and reverence belong.

V. 22. Golgotha, so called from its configuration which resembled a skull, lay outside of the city walls, as they were at that time. Subsequently the extension of the city to the North led to the inclusion of the spot within the city boundaries. The Church of the Holy Sepulchre, which for many centuries has been thought to mark the neighborhood, lies well within the walls.

V. 23. The offering to crucified persons of wine containing an infusion of myrrh was a measure dictated by compassion. The cup was designed as an opiate to induce a certain dulling of the senses during the long-drawn-out agony of death by crucifixion. Certain charitable persons would make themselves responsible for seeing that the opiate was administered to the crucified Jesus. But Jesus refused the draught. In the utterness of his self-surrender he would not consent to any drugging of his pain.

V. 24. At the foot of the cross there goes on the procedure customary on such occasions, the dividing of the prisoner's clothes among the soldiers of the guard.

V. 25. The hour when the crucifixion began is exactly recorded. It was 9 a.m. "The third hour," by the Jewish reckoning.

V. 26. It was the custom to affix to the cross a public notice stating for what crime the condemned person suffered. In Jesus' case the inscription was, "The King of the Jews." What ever mocking significance his Jewish or Roman critics attached to this "superscription," it expressed the final truth of the matter for those who, like his disciples, had seen into the meaning of that sovereign life of love which was now ending.

V. 34. Jesus lingered in life from 9 a.m., when they crucified him, till 3 p.m., when the end came. Immediately before the end there came from his lips the parting cry of dereliction, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani." The words are Aramaic, and echo the opening verse of Psalm 22. There meaning is, "My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me?" What significance is to be attached to this last dying utterance of the Son of Man? Some have reasoned from the cry that Jesus had hoped till now that God would intervene to save him and to reveal him as the Messiah. But it would be surely truer to see in the cry, and in the agony the words express, the last dread reality of the surrender which Jesus for our sakes made to death. His sacrifice for us involved and included this final sense of forsakenness by the Father. He was forsaken in our stead, just as in our stead he suffered.

Vs. 35-37. A misinterpretation by the bystanders of his dying words is mentioned. The Jewish expectation of Elijah's return would be familiar even to Roman soldiers in Palestine, and accounts for their callous words at this juncture. A moment after, Jesus expired.

V. 38. Attention has been called above to the religious significance of the symbolical episode here recorded. The rending of the Temple veil means that with the death of Christ the Christian soul becomes conscious of a new way of approach to God. The Temple worship is cancelled and superseded. Faith transfers itself from law and sacrifice to the crucified one. So at any rate it happens in Christian experience from this time onwards. Christians look no longer to the Holy of Holies for the abiding glory of the divine presence, but to the face of Jesus Christ (compare 2 Cor. 3: 18 and 4: 6).

V. 39. The testimony of the Gentile centurion is also of great interest. He claims when Jesus dies: "Surely this man was a Son of God." "Son of God" on heathen lips would mean hero or deified person, and the centurion's words are indicative of the supreme place in worship and reverence which Jesus was soon to acquire in the Graeco-Roman world.

An unconfirmed rumor has been going the rounds that both political conventions will fearlessly endorse the campaign against the coarborator and vote to uphold the Constitution.—Louisville Times.

England and the United States ought to figure out some way to persuade Egypt to declare war on Nicaragua.—San Diego Union.



WILD CANADIANS IN EN... AND  
Over 200 bears, wolves and buffalo (all skinned) arrived at Wapping from Canada to figure in exhibitions throughout the old land by the Empire Marketing board.

## NEGLECT

(Often Lead...)

In no disease more dangerous than the one which attacks the male sex and the young and old alike follow...  
This often means...  
Thousands...  
In an ancient...  
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Pink Pills...  
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Dr. Williams'...  
been feeling...  
was very pale...  
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me tired and...  
dition I beg...  
Pink Pills...  
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will be sent...  
by The Dr...  
Brockville, O...

The early m...  
rain;  
It beat again...  
I lay in bed...  
A little peo...  
Outside o...  
A thrush...  
While I was...  
For happy...  
He sang his...  
Without a ca...  
And still...  
He made...  
Until at last...  
I'd better let...  
And turn my...  
It seems a pe...

The Social...  
fees to a fair...  
still goes on...  
—San Diego

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