

also a soapstone pipe and stem, handsomely finished, was picked up in that neighborhood. How the Indians, who knew nothing of the use of iron tools, made such a pipe and such a beautifully shaped arrow head, is a question which has never been satisfactorily answered. Such relics should be carefully preserved, for they are the only memorials we have of the race which first inhabited this country, the race from which sprang Pocahontas, the gentlest savage that ever lived.

All the things that I have enumerated are highly interesting, but nothing that I have seen in Patrick County has interested me so much as its fairy stones.

These curious little crystals are found in only three other States besides Virginia, in no other county in Virginia but Patrick, and nowhere else in Patrick but on and along Bull Mountain, a spur of the Blue Ridge running twenty miles through the county. The fairy stones found elsewhere, judging from the specimens exhibited at the Atlanta and Nashville expositions, are not at all comparable to those found on Bull Mountain. To a few of the people of Patrick they have been known for a long time, but not until about ten years ago did they come into public notice. Some of these stones which have been analyzed contained titanite, tourmaline, garnet, aluminum, and steatite, titanite being the principal material.

Geologists say that they are crystals. Most of them have crosses, some what is called the Roman; some, the Maltese; some, the St. Andrew's; and some, crosses for which there are no names. Those which have no crosses are pretty stones of different forms. Frequently two, sometimes three or four, are joined, making a most curious combination. Possibly a person skilled in the use of the chisel might imitate what might be styled the plain work of the fairies; but it would be impossible for the most skillful sculptor to imitate their fancy work. On many of these stones there are crosses exactly alike on opposite sides. Some of the stones are not larger than the head of a pin, while others weigh as much as an ounce and a half. No two are alike. Nature seems to have tried her hand at variety in making them, as she does in making the leaves on the Otahite mulberry tree. And they are of every shade of color. A number of them placed upon a cardboard make a picture as novel as it is strange and beautiful. No adequate conception can be formed of what a great curiosity fairy stones are without seeing a great many of them together.

Hunting for fairy stones is a new and charming diversion. A walk of two and a half miles from Stuart will take you to where they are found. You will have to climb the mountain, but the scenery along the route is so picturesque that you will forget you are going uphill. And, besides, you will be constantly thinking: What shall I find? Will it be a Roman, a Maltese, or a St. Andrew's? Or will it be a Roman joined to a Maltese or a Maltese joined to a St. Andrew's? or a St. Andrew's joined to one of the crosses for which there is no name? Of one thing you may rest assured, and that is, that every stone that you may find will be different from any that you have ever seen.

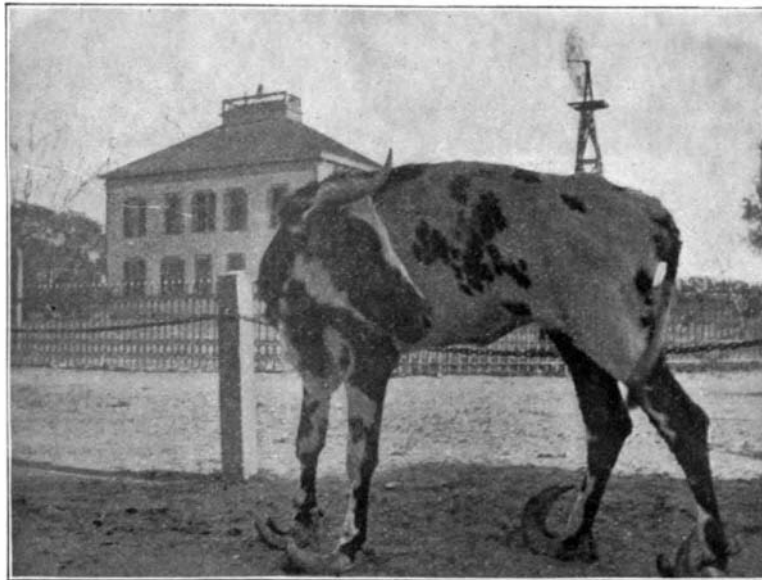
When you arrive at the place (it is only about in spots on Bull Mountain that fairy stones are found), you will begin at once the search. You will find them from two to four inches under the ground, and the best instrument to use in digging them up is a small trowel. You will find them in abundance; but the really pretty ones, such as are used by ladies for scarf pins and by gentlemen for watch charms, are scarce. All of them, however, are interesting specimens of the most curious form of crystallization.

When you have filled your pockets, you start back; but you will not go far before you will be tempted to take a seat on one of the large, flat rocks on the side of the road—not to rest, for it is now *facilis descensus*—but to gratify the curiosity which you are sure to have to look over your treasure. Taking out your fairy stones and inspecting them, one by one, you will discover in many of them beauties which escaped your notice while you were digging them out of the ground.

Having gratified your curiosity, you resume your walk, and are soon back again at Stuart.

A CURIOUS CASE OF MALFORMATION.

Through the courtesy of Mr. W. O. McCurdy, publisher of *The Beeville Bee*, of Beeville, Texas, we are enabled to present our readers with one of the most remarkable curiosities in the way of animal malformation that we have seen for years. The cow shown in our engraving is five years old and is the property of W. J. Miller, a ranchman of Bee County, Texas. Since its first year its hoofs have been growing until they are now about fourteen inches in length and shaped as shown in the photograph. As it may be supposed in cattle-growing countries, the ranchmen have been very much interested in this strange-looking animal and they are unanimous in stating that this is the first instance on record of such a malformation. The cow has



CURIOUS CASE OF MALFORMATION IN A COW.

given birth to one calf, which has in no way inherited the peculiarity of its mother.

A Traveling Railway Library.

The Baltimore and Ohio Railway has a traveling library for the exclusive use of its employes and their families, containing 14,000 volumes. This library was started in 1885 with 4,500 volumes, 3,000 of which had been purchased, the remainder donated. The headquarters of the library is in Baltimore, from which current periodicals and standard works on science, general literature, poetry, history, and other books of practical utility to railway employes are distributed to any point on the B. & O. lines. The books are delivered to borrowers through local agents. The average time from the placing of an order for a book in the hands of an agent until the book is in his hands for delivery is officially stated to be less than twenty-four hours for the entire system, which comprises 674 agen-

who also appoints the librarian. The library is sustained by voluntary contributions of money and literature from the officers and employes of the railway company and outside friends interested in their welfare. The circulation increased steadily from 16,120 volumes in 1885 to 39,505 volumes, loaned to 2,500 borrowers, in 1896. The figures for the last two years are not at hand. The circulation of books of fiction has decreased from 64 per cent of the total circulation the first year to less than 53 per cent at present.

Elastic Leather Varnish.

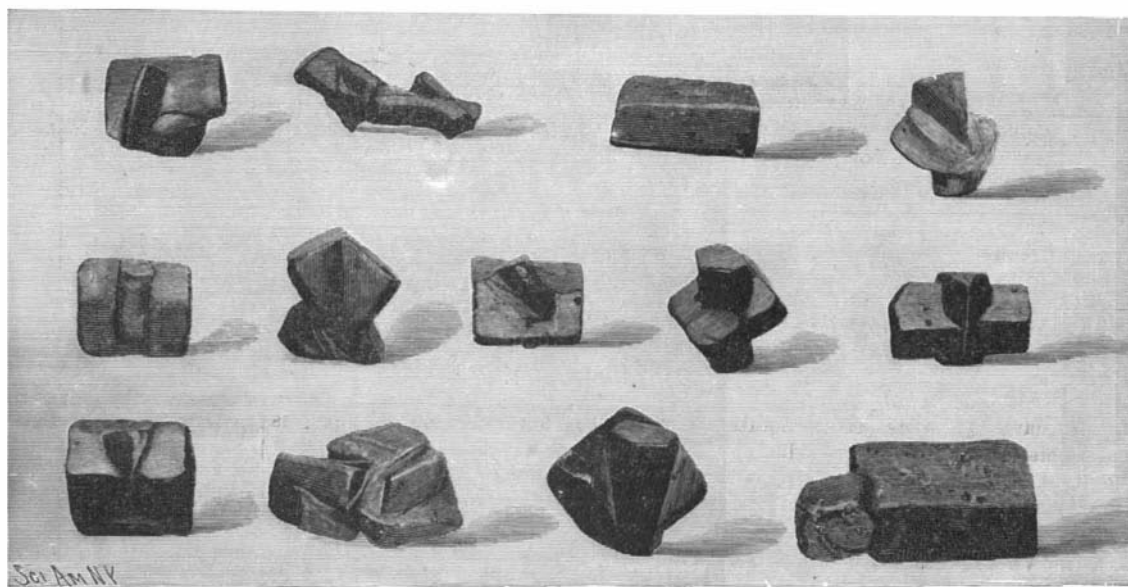
Elastic leather varnish which does not break is prepared as follows: Colophony, 30 parts; thick turpentine, 30 parts; oil of turpentine, 30 parts; sandarac, 60 parts; shellac, 120 parts; alcohol (90 per cent), 900 parts. After all is dissolved, filter the liquid and, if black varnish is desired, mix with 15 parts of fine lampblack, which is previously ground with a little alcohol. If another shade than black is desired, use instead of the lampblack a sufficient quantity of some other color, such as Krems or zinc white, ultramarine, chrome yellow, or vermilion. — *Neueste Erfindungen und Erfahrungen.*

A Market for Our Meats.

Germany's meat famine is spreading apace. In many places, notably in Saxony, cats and dogs are being slaughtered and eaten by the poor. In some villages several families club together and buy a fat dog, to be killed and divided among them. The consumption of horseflesh is increasing phenomenally. Horseflesh butcheries are being established in towns where they have never existed before. There has been a continuous increase of arrests and convictions for selling unwholesome ordinary meats since the frontiers have been closed against foreign cattle and swine. On the other hand, there is a great and thriving trade in preserved American meats, despite the government's obstacles at the instance of the Agrarians. The tinned American meats imported during the first seven months of 1898 amounted to 1,964,800 kilogrammes [a kilogramme is about 2½ pounds], against 1,414,900 in the corresponding months of 1897. Of fresh pork the importation was 6,758,800, against 3,955,500; of pickled pork, 3,369,900, against 1,859,800; of bacon, 15,948,300, against 7,139,300; and of lard, 64,356,400, against 47,446,600. The demand for all of these still exceeds the supply, and if the general mass of Germans can be convinced that American meats are always of standard quality and can be had at a reasonable price, the sales can be extended fivefold.

The Current Supplement.

The current SUPPLEMENT, No. 1198, is commenced with an illustrated description of the Argentine cruiser "General Belgrano," which is a handsome and highly efficient armored cruiser of the latest type. "The Steam Yacht as a Naval Auxiliary," by W. P. Stephens, is an interesting article. "Roman Construction," by G. W. Percy, is an archaeological and engineering paper. "The Use of Aluminum in Warfare" is a paper of value. "The Opening of the First Section of the Jungfrau Railway" describes the progress which has been made on this important engineering work. "In the Land of Ginger—Jamaica," is a paper by F. B. Kilmer. "The Races of the Philippine Archipelago" is an illustrated paper by Dr. Daniel G. Brinton and is of great interest. W. O. Atwater's "Dietary Studies" complete the paper.



PECULIAR SHAPED "FAIRY STONES."

cies, extending over 3,000 miles of line, through eight States, and as far west as the Mississippi River. According to the rules of the library, a book may be retained two weeks, after which it will be once renewed for a like period, upon request, if no other application for it is on file. There is a fine of one cent per day for books kept over time, a margin of three days being allowed to cover the time consumed in transit. Upon leaving the service of the company all books must be returned before pay vouchers are cashed; otherwise the price of the book is deducted from the wages of the employe. The management of the library is intrusted to a committee composed of two members of the relief department of the road and a representative of the railway company appointed by the president,

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