


Concerning
Precious Stones
and
Jewels

22

OF GEMS & GEM-CUTTING



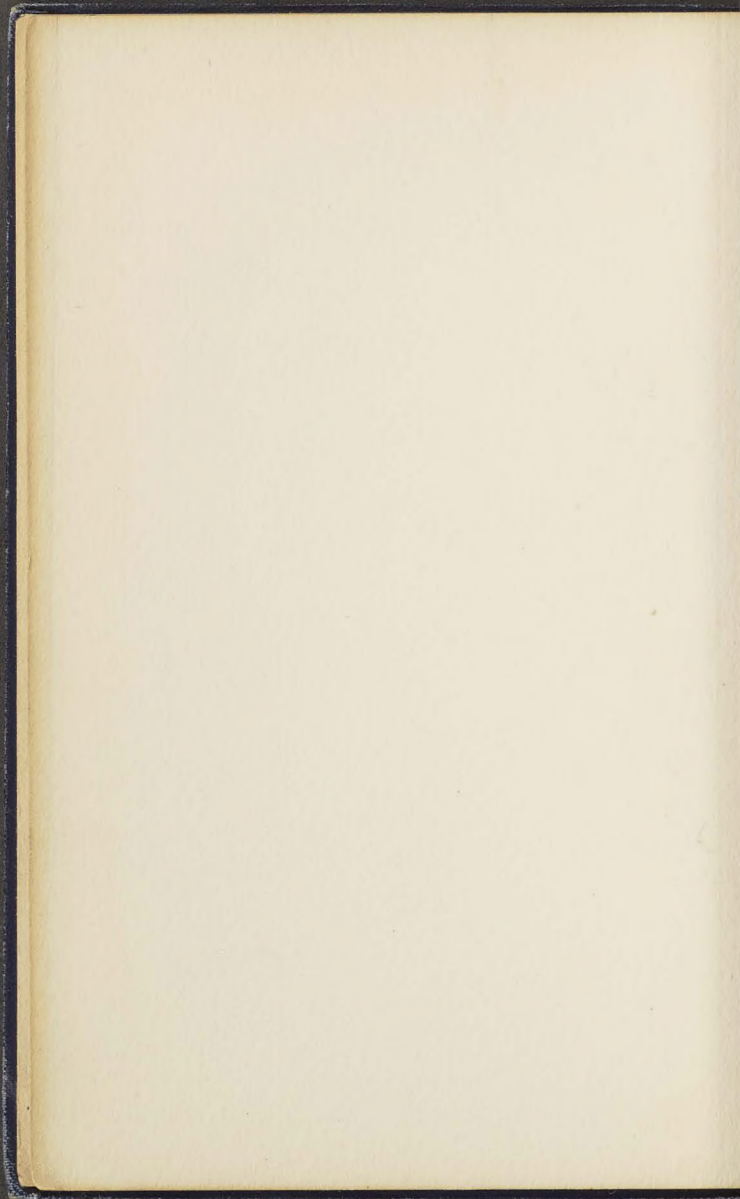
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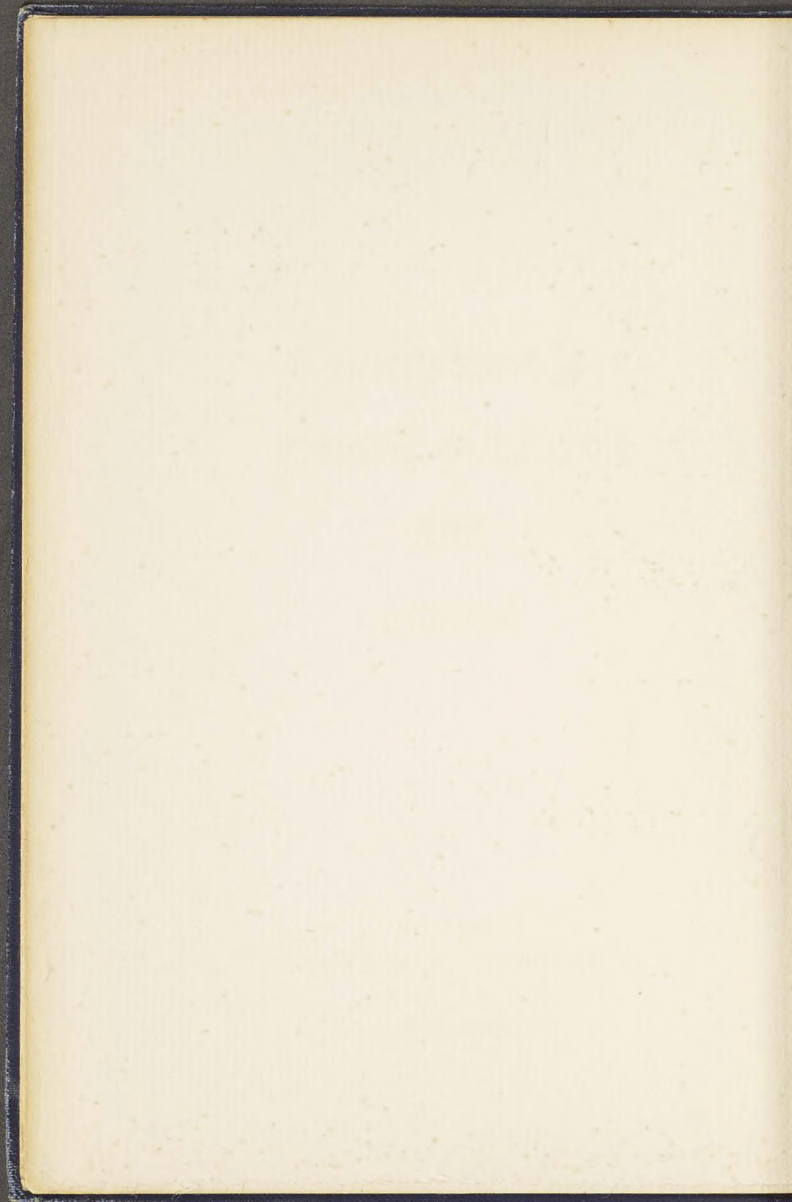
JOHN SIN KAN KAS

MINERALS AND STONES OF NORTH AMERICA · PROSPECTING FOR GEM

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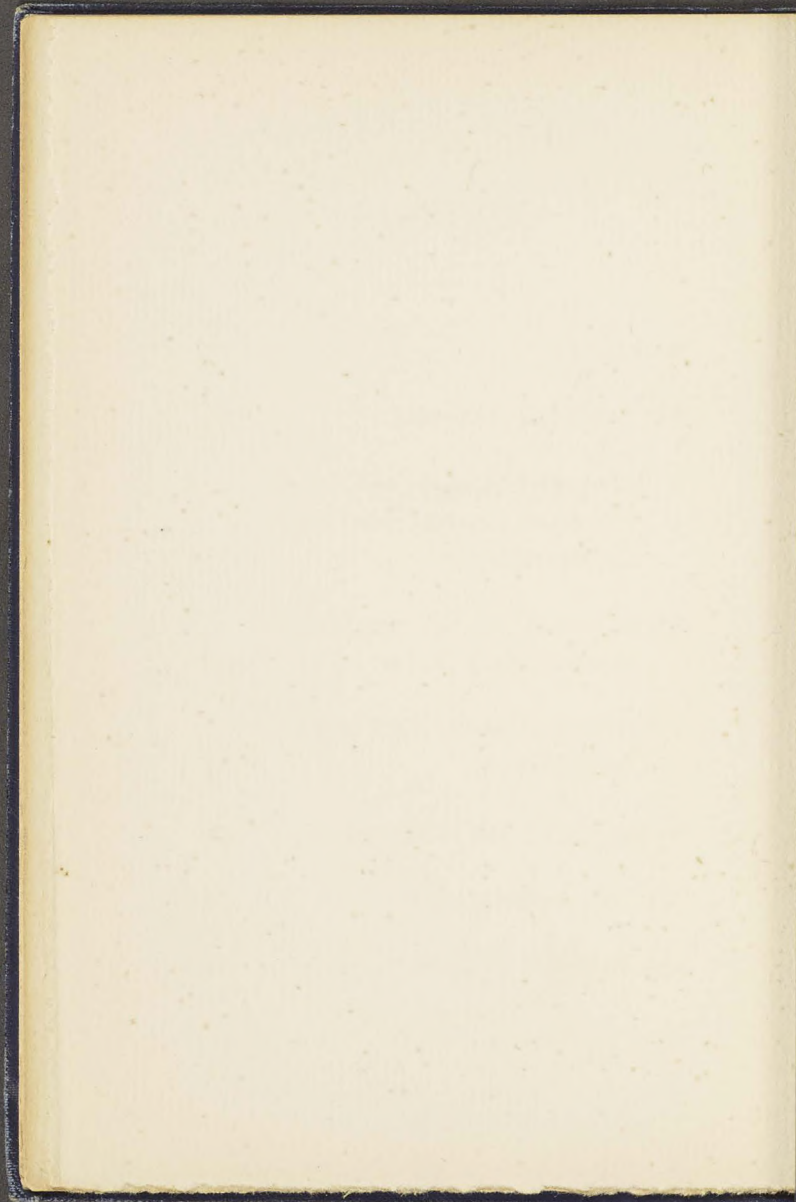
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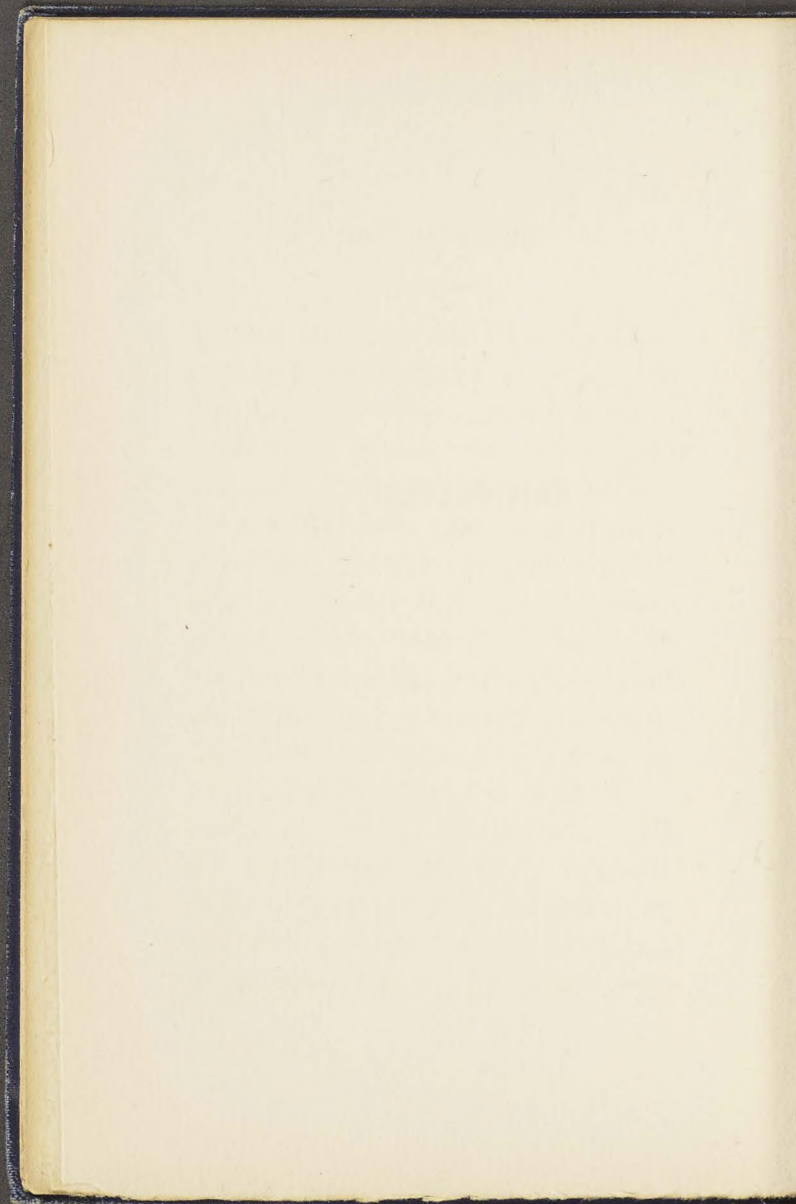
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Introduction



Introduction

This little book aims to give a few important facts regarding precious stones and a few suggestions concerning their proper mounting.

The precious stones, as the term is generally understood, are the diamond, ruby, pearl, sapphire, emerald, oriental cats-eye, and alexandrite. Some of the semi-precious stones are the aquamarine, tourmaline, amethyst, peridot, topaz, turquoise, and opal.

There is a double incentive for the accumulation of precious stones; they are cherished for purposes of adornment as well as for their money value. On the one hand they are objects of

beauty, sentiment, and genuine pleasure, both to wearer and beholder; on the other hand they may be regarded in the light of a simple investment, the interest on which consists in the pleasure derived from their possession and use.

Beauty, hardness, and rarity are the three qualities that determine the value of all precious stones. Beauty lies in color, brilliancy, and clearness; hardness is requisite for a high polish as well as for durability; while rarity is a variable quality, depending on the quantity found in different parts of the earth at a given time.

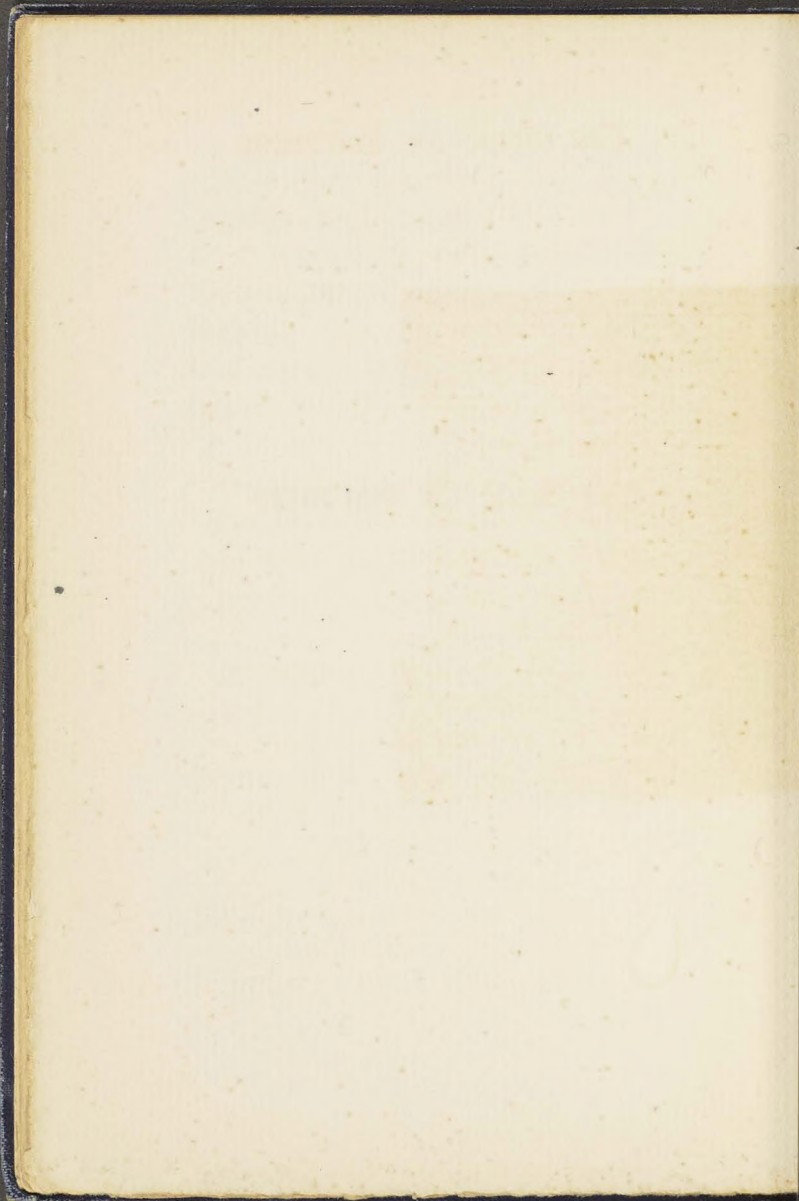
It is of prime importance that jewels should be selected with the utmost care. They should never be purchased at any price from strangers; but only from

dealers of the highest integrity. Nor is this all; something more than integrity is needed on the part of the dealer. The accuracy of his judgment is a factor that no purchaser can afford to overlook. It is impossible, for example, to estimate the value of a diamond by its weight alone. Its color, brilliancy, cut, and general perfection must all be considered. Of two stones, each weighing three carats, one may be worth three hundred dollars and the other worth three thousand dollars, the difference in value lying wholly in some exceptional quality. It must be remembered that the price of pearls and of colored stones is removed from the common category, and only accurate judgment can safely determine their value. Again, the rarity of

a gem is always a factor in its price and of this only an expert can properly judge.

But when a precious stone of fine quality has been secured at a proper price, it is a satisfying possession for all time. For precious stones endure! Monarchs live and die; dynasty follows dynasty; invaders obliterate all landmarks; even the location of great countries passes out of memory; yet jewels remain, to shine in undiminished brilliancy when all the paintings of all the masters have fallen into decay.

The Scale for Hardness

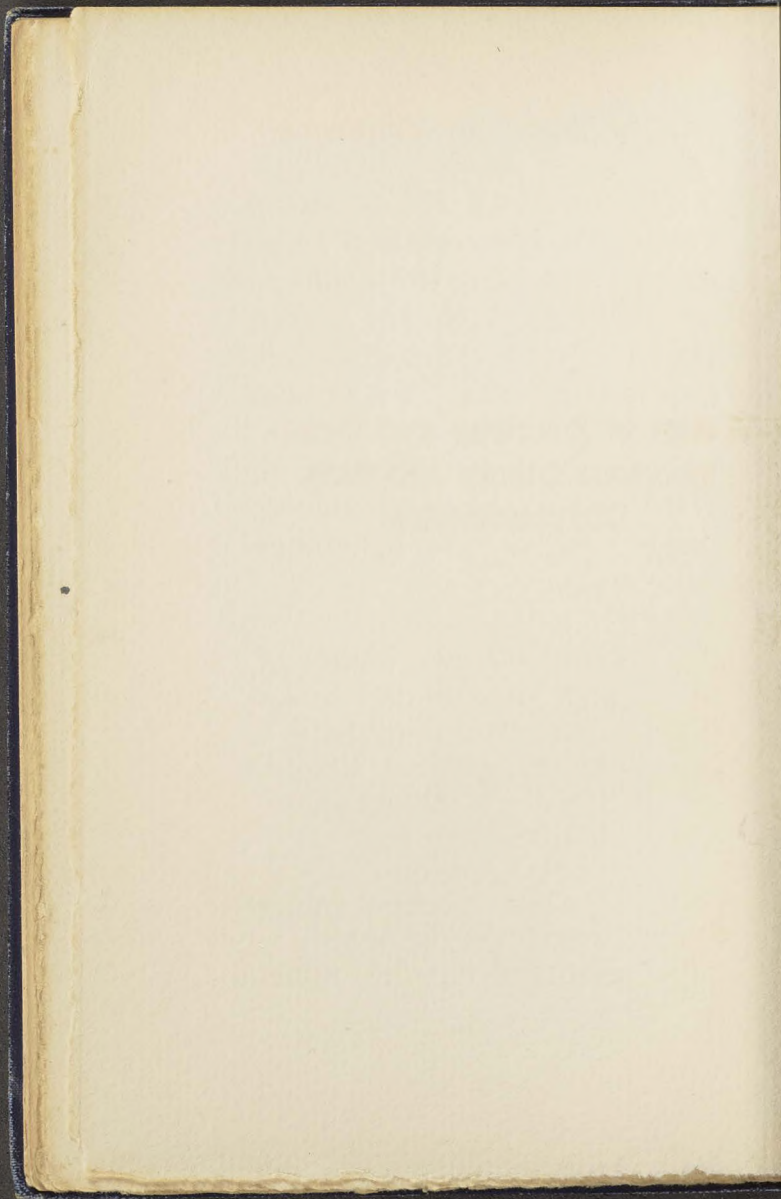


The Scale for Hardness

The following list of stones, comprising those generally used by jewellers, gives the qualities of special interest to the general reader, namely, color, lustre, and hardness; as well as the principal sources of supply.

The scale of ten minerals, devised by Moh, a German mineralogist, is used to indicate hardness.

1. Talc—very soft
2. Rock salt—soft
3. Calcite—low degree of hardness
4. Fluor Spar—fairly hard
5. Apatite—medium hardness
6. Felspar—scratches glass
7. Quartz—quite hard
8. Topaz—very hard
9. Sapphire—Hardest mineral excepting diamond
10. Diamond—hardest mineral



A List of Precious and Semi=
Precious Stones and their
Characteristics

The pale blue turquoise upon which are engraved the names of the Imams and certain magical formulas are a kind of talisman.

The Persians only care for the dark blue variety from the Nishapur mines.

These mines are said to be on the site of ancient tombs, and the turquoises themselves are supposed to be the bones of the dead, transformed thus by the gradual metamorphosis of slow, geological processes.

The turquoises are said to bring luck & their name "firuza" means "happy"; (firuza)

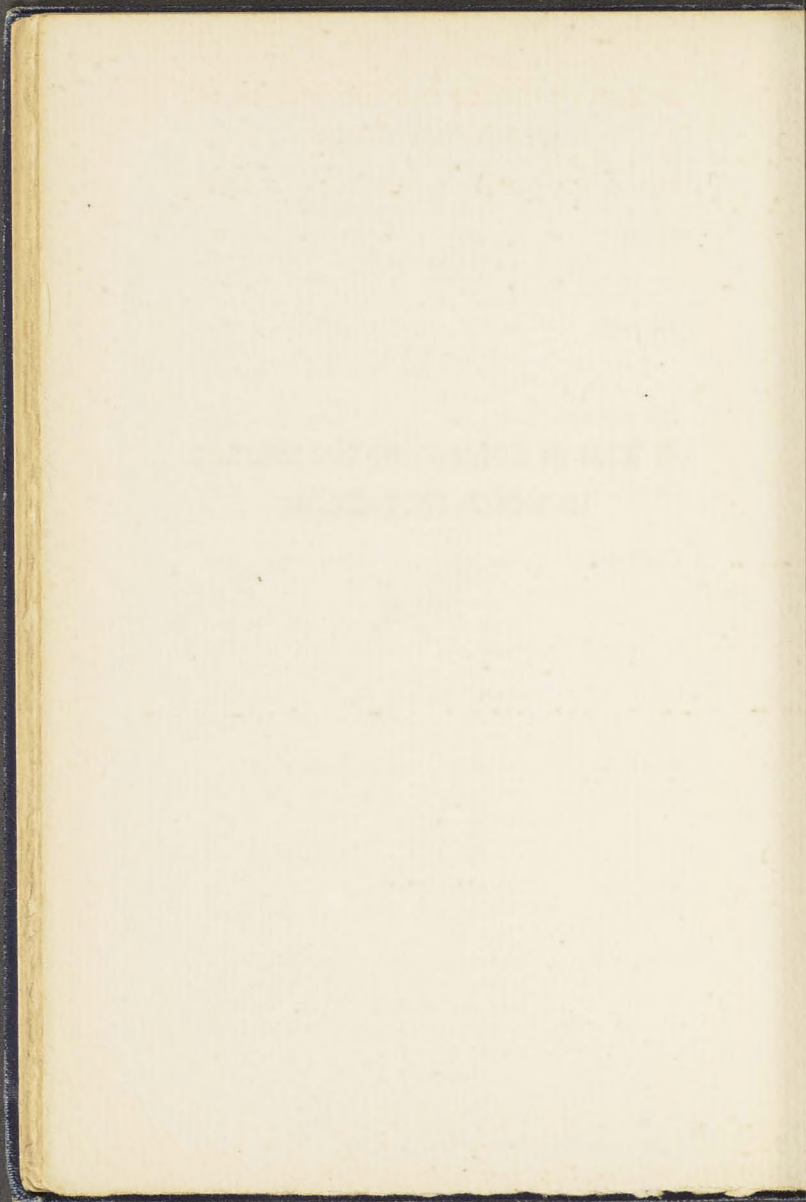
NAME OF GEM	COLOR	LUSTRE	HARDNESS	LOCALITIES
Alexandrite	Sage Green, Red	Vitreous	8.5	Russia, Brazil
Amethyst	Purple	Vitreous, occasionally resinous	7	India, United States, Siberia, Brazil
Aquamarine	Sea-water	Vitreous or resinous	7.5 to 8	India, United States, Siberia, Brazil
Asteria or Star-Sapphire	Red, Blue, Gray	Vitreous, very lively	9	Burma, Ceylon
Beryl	Colorless, Blue, Green, Yellow	Vitreous or resinous	7.5 to 8	India, United States, Siberia, Brazil
Cats-eye	Yellow, Brown, Sage Green	Vitreous	8.5	Ceylon, Brazil, Ural Mountains

NAME OF GEM	COLOR	LUSTRE	HARDNESS	LOCALITIES
Chrysoberyl	Yellow, Brown, Sage Green	Vitreous	8.5	Ceylon, Brazil, Ural Mountains
Chrysolite	Primrose Yellow	Vitreous	6 to 7	Levant, Egypt
Chrysoptase	Green	Vitreous	7	Siberia, United States
Diamond	Colorless, Yellow, Red, Blue, Brown, Pink, Green, Black	Brilliantly Adamantine	10	India, Brazil, South Africa
Emerald	Green	Vitreous or resinous	7.5 to 8	India, Colombia, Ural Mountains, Peru
Garnet	Red, Brown, Green	Vitreous	6.5 to 7.5	Brazil, India, Ceylon, United States
Jacinth	Yellow	Adamantine	7.5	Ceylon, New South Wales
Lapis Lazuli	Blue	Vitreous	5 to 5.5	Siberia, Brazil, Persia, China

NAME OF GEM	COLOR	LUSTRE	HARDNESS	LOCALITIES
Opal	Iridescent	Subvitreous	5.5 to 6.5	Queensland, New South Wales, Hungary, Mexico
Pearl	White, Yellow, Black, Pink	Pearly		Ceylon, United States, Panama, Japan
Peridot or Olivine	Chartreuse Green	Vitreous	6 to 7	Levant, Egypt
Ruby	Red	Vitreous, very lively	9	Burma, Siam, Ceylon
Sapphire	Blue	Vitreous, very lively	9	Burma, Montana, Australia
Spinel	Red, Blue, Green, Pink, Orange, Brown, Black	Vitreous	8	Ceylon, Siam, Burma

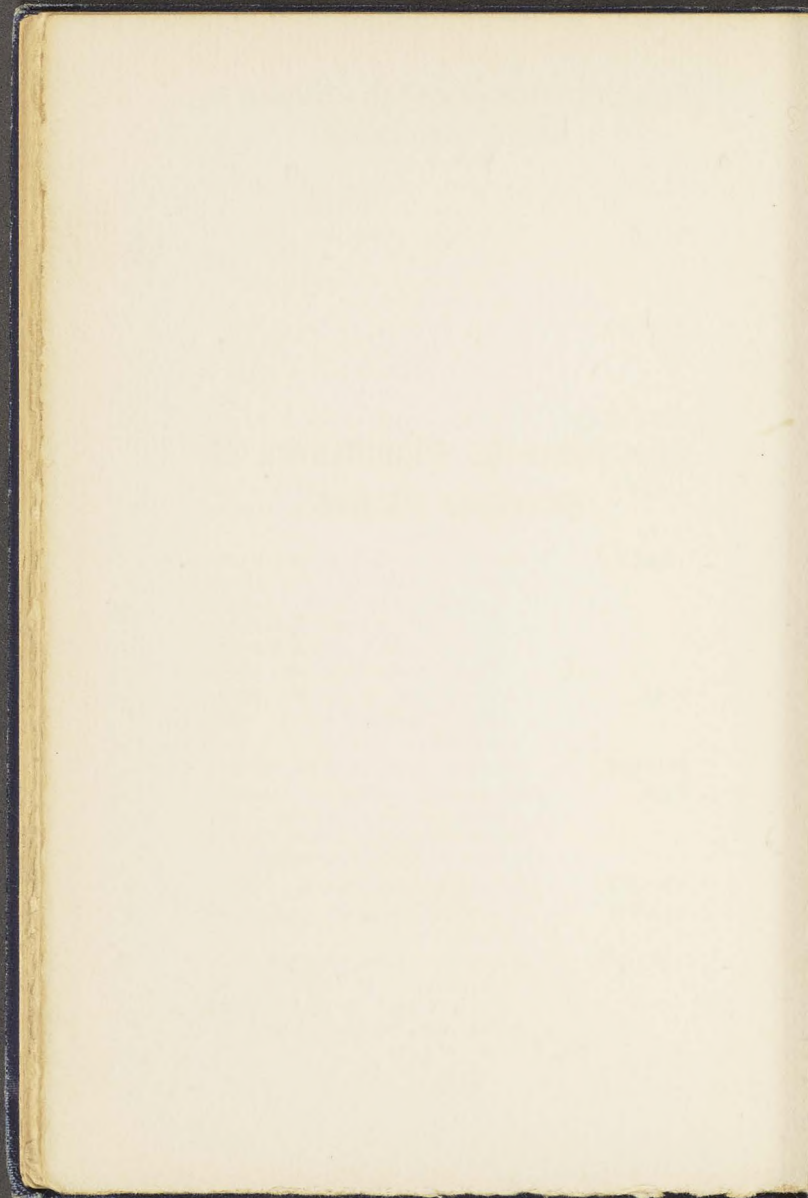
NAME OF GEM	COLOR	LUSTRE	HARDNESS	LOCALITIES
Topaz	Colorless, Yellow, Brown, Blue, Pink	Vitreous	8	Brazil, Burma, Siberia, Saxony, Scotland, United States
Tourmaline	Red, Blue, Green, Brown, Yellow, Black	Vitreous	7 to 7.5	Siberia, Burma, Ceylon, United States
Turquoise	Blue	Waxy	6	Persia, Egypt, United States
Zircon or Jargoon	Brown, Green, Gray	Adamantine	7.5	Ceylon, New South Wales

A List of Colors and the Stones
in which they Occur

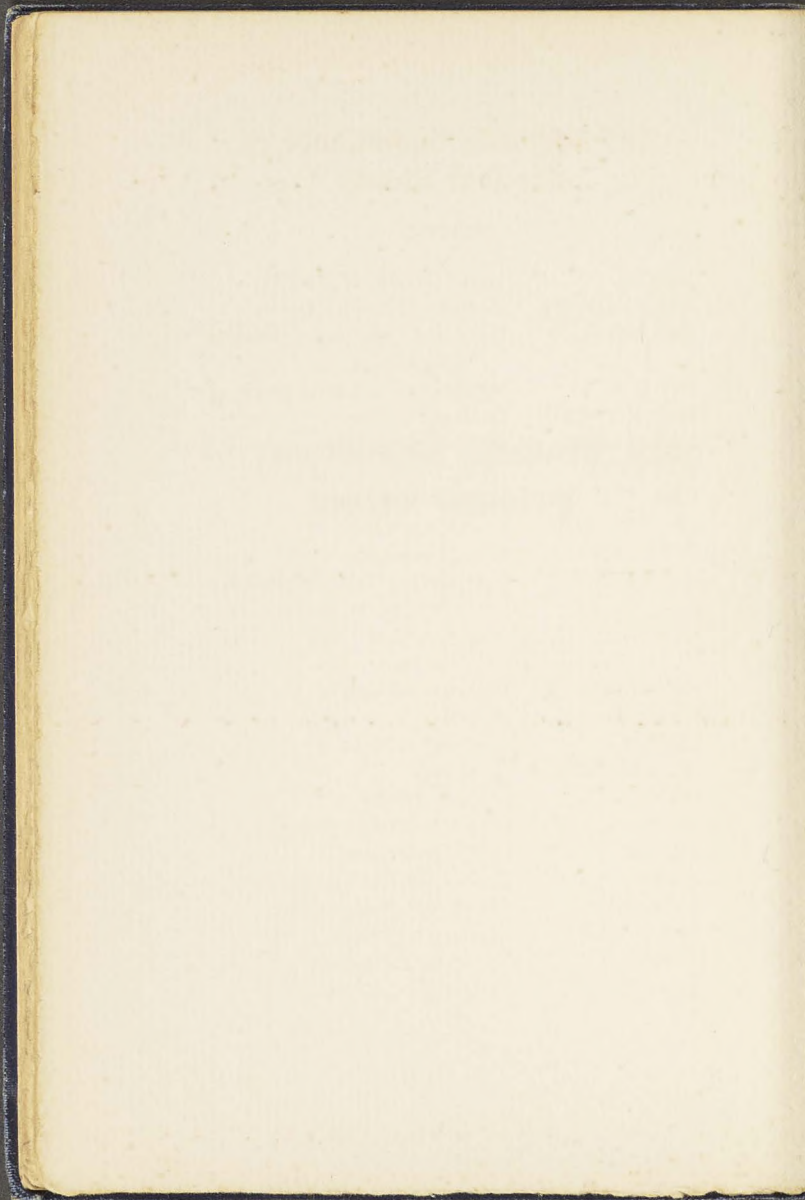


A List of Colors and the Stones in which they Occur

BLACK.	Diamond, hematite, jet, obsidian, pearl, spinel, tourmaline.
BLUE.	Aquamarine, chalcedony, diamond, jasper, lapis lazuli, obsidian, pearl, sapphire, spinel, topaz, tourmaline, turquoise.
BROWN.	Amber, carnelian, cats-eye, chalcedony, diamond, jasper, obsidian, pearl, topaz, tourmaline, zircon or jargon.
COLORLESS.	Diamond, crystal, moonstone, sapphire, spinel, topaz, tourmaline, zircon.
GRAY.	Cats-eye, jasper, moonstone, obsidian, onyx, pearl, topaz, tourmaline, zircon.
GREEN.	Alexandrite, Amazon stone, aquamarine, bloodstone, chalcedony, chrysolite, chrysoprase, emerald, garnet, jade, malachite, obsidian, olivine, peridot, prase, sapphire, spinel, topaz, tourmaline, zircon,
PINK.	Coral, garnet, pearl, rose-quartz, ruby, sapphire, spinel, topaz, tourmaline.
PURPLE.	Amethyst, pearl, sapphire, spinel.
RED.	Alexandrite, aventurine, carnelian, coral, garnet, hyacinth, jasper, ruby, rutile, sard, sardonyx, spinel, sunstone, topaz, tourmaline.
VIOLET.	Kunzite, sapphire, spinel.
WHITE.	Chalcedony, jargon, opal, pearl, quartz.
YELLOW.	Amber, aventurine, carnelian, cat's-eye, chrysoberyl, chrysolite, diamond, garnet, jasper, obsidian, opal, pearl, sapphire, topaz, zircon.

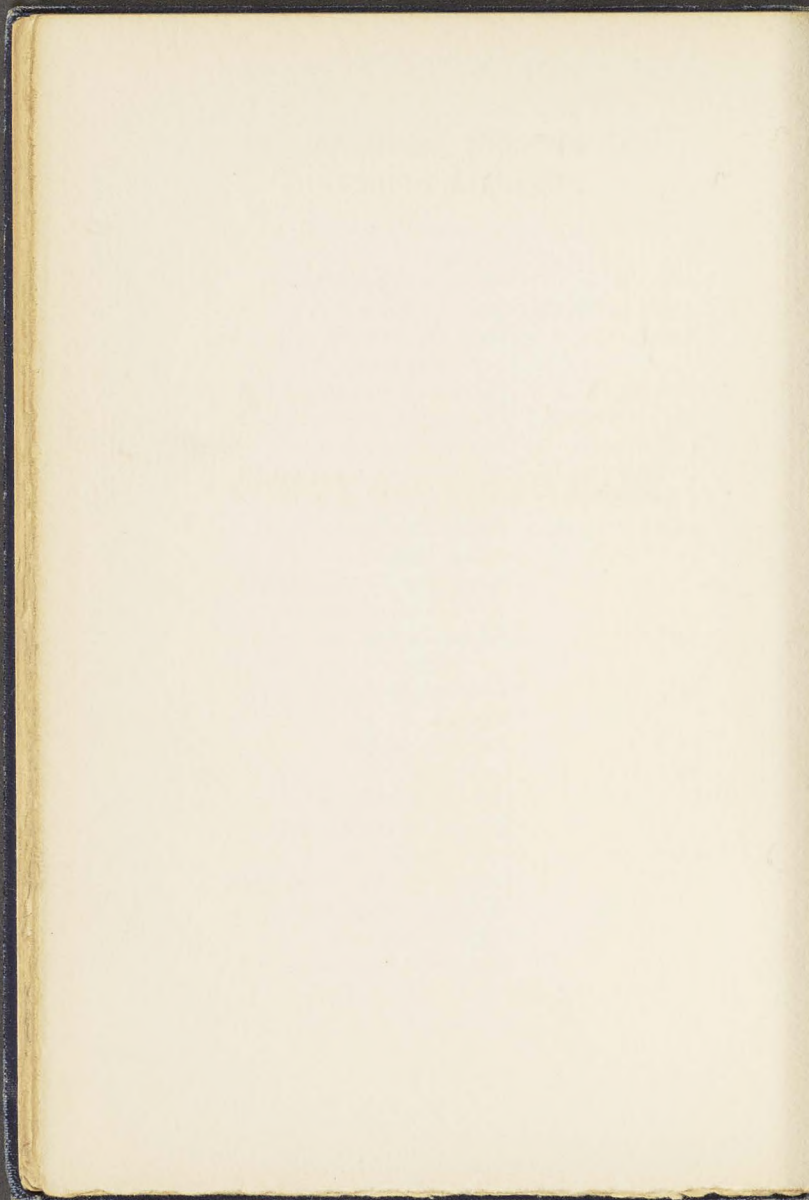


The Symbolic Significance of
Precious Stones

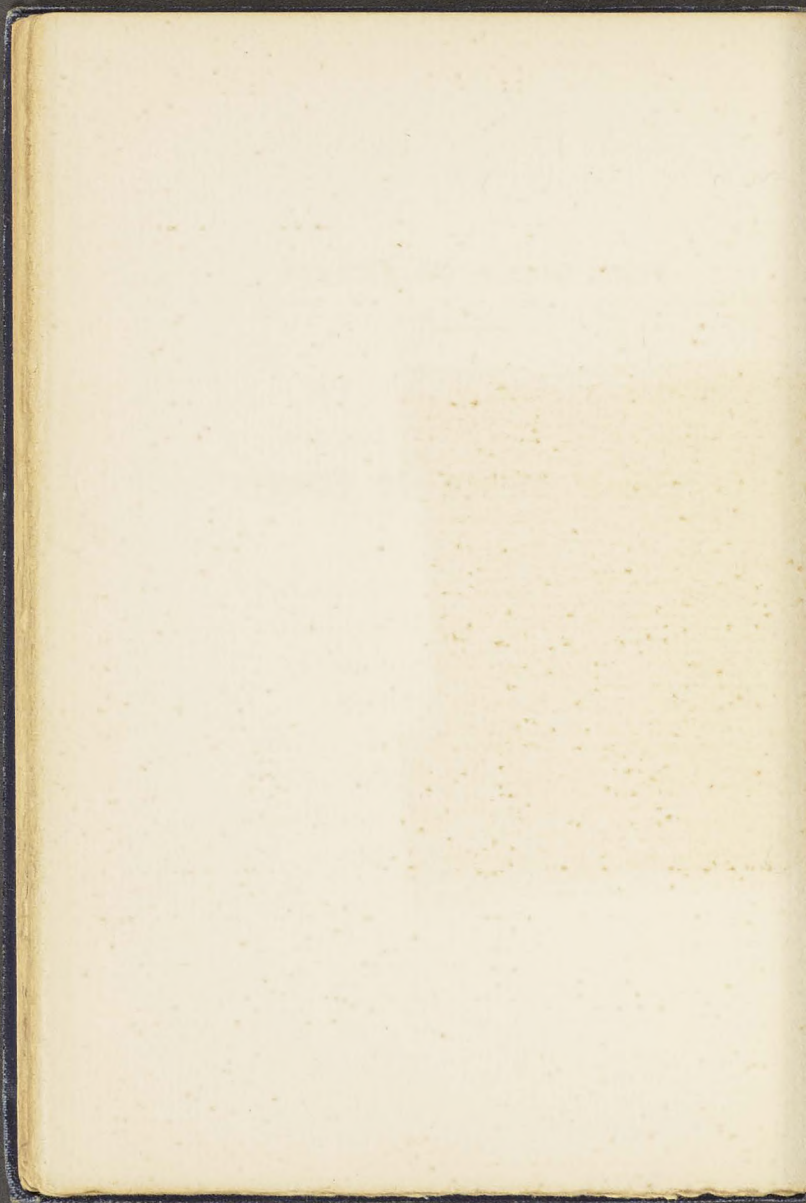


The Symbolic Significance of Precious Stones

AGATE.	Health ; longevity ; wealth.
ALEXANDRITE.	Undying devotion.
AMETHYST.	Deep and pure love ; prevents intoxication.
BERYL.	Happiness ; everlasting youth.
BLOODSTONE.	Courage ; wisdom.
CARNELIAN.	Prevents misfortune.
CAT'S-EYE.	Warns of danger and trouble.
CHALCEDONY.	Disperses melancholy.
CHRYSOLITE.	Gladdens the heart.
DIAMOND.	Purity ; innocence.
EMERALD.	Immortality ; incorruptibility ; conquers sin and trial.
GARNET.	Insures power and victory ; fidelity.
HYACINTH.	Gives second sight.
JACINTH.	Modesty.
JASPER.	Courage ; wisdom.
MOONSTONE.	Good luck.
ONYX.	Conjugal felicity.
OPAL.	Hope ; innocence ; purity.
PEARL.	Purity ; innocence.
RUBY.	Charity ; dignity ; divine power
SAPPHIRE.	Constancy ; truth ; virtue.
SARDONYX.	Conjugal happiness.
TOPAZ.	Friendship ; happiness.
TURQUOISE.	Prosperity ; soul-cheer.

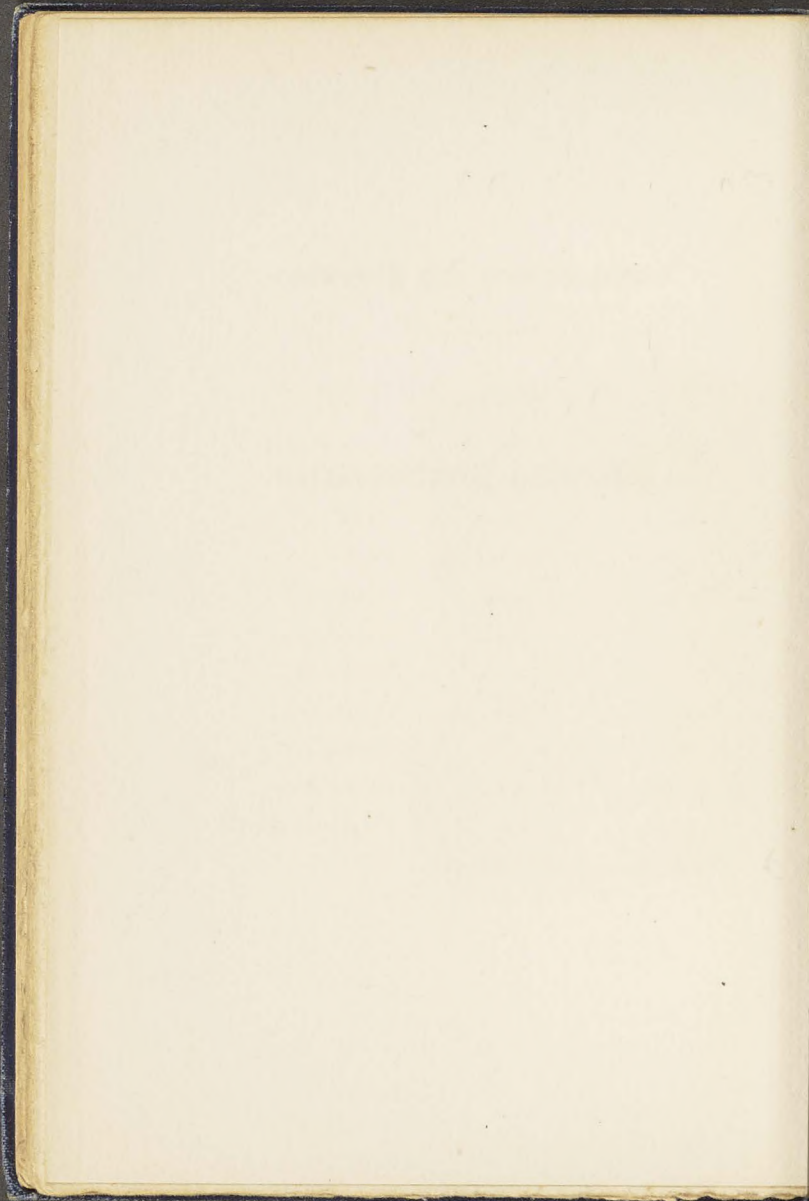


Natal Stones and Flowers

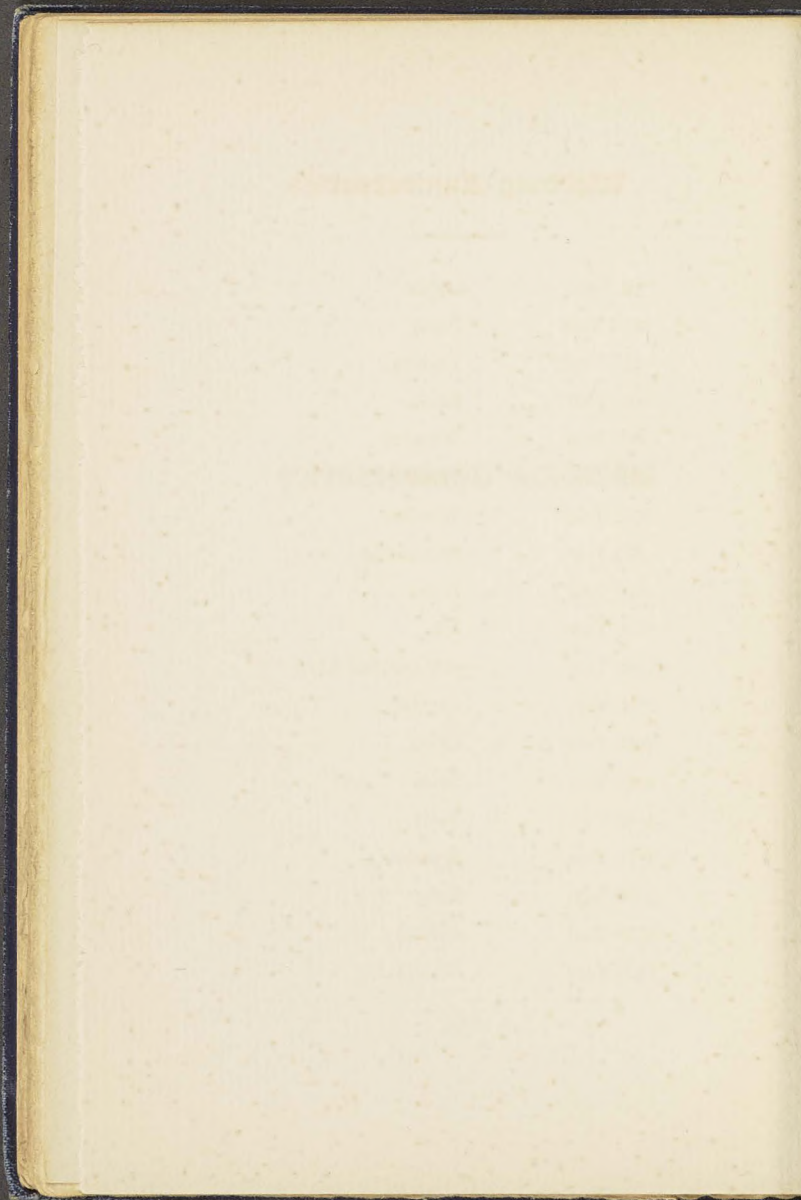


Natal Stones and Flowers

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>STONES</u>	<u>FLOWERS</u>
January	Garnet	Snow Drop
February	Amethyst	Primrose
March	Hyacinth	Violet
April	Diamond	Daisy
May	Emerald	Hawthorn
June	Pearl	Honeysuckle
July	Ruby	Water Lily
August	Olivine	Poppy
September	Sapphire	Morning Glory
October	Opal	Golden Rod
November	Topaz	Chrysanthemum
December	Turquoise	Holly

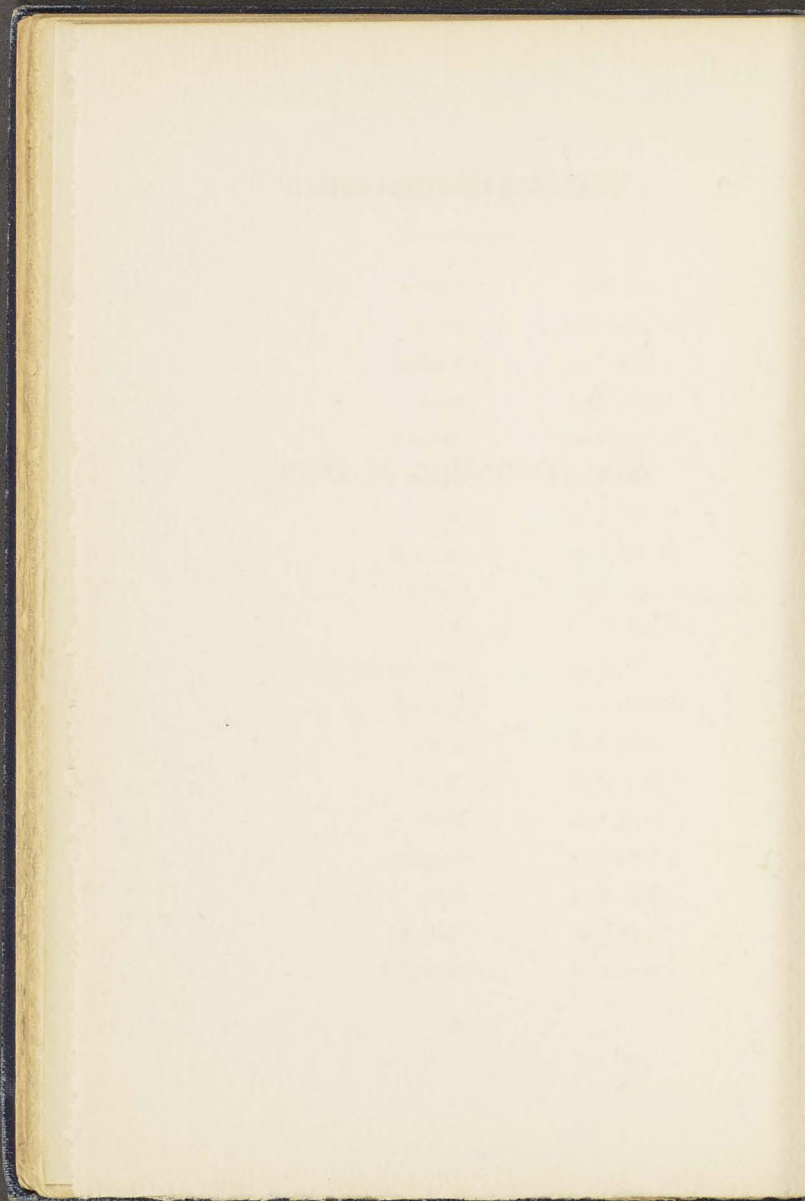


Wedding Anniversaries

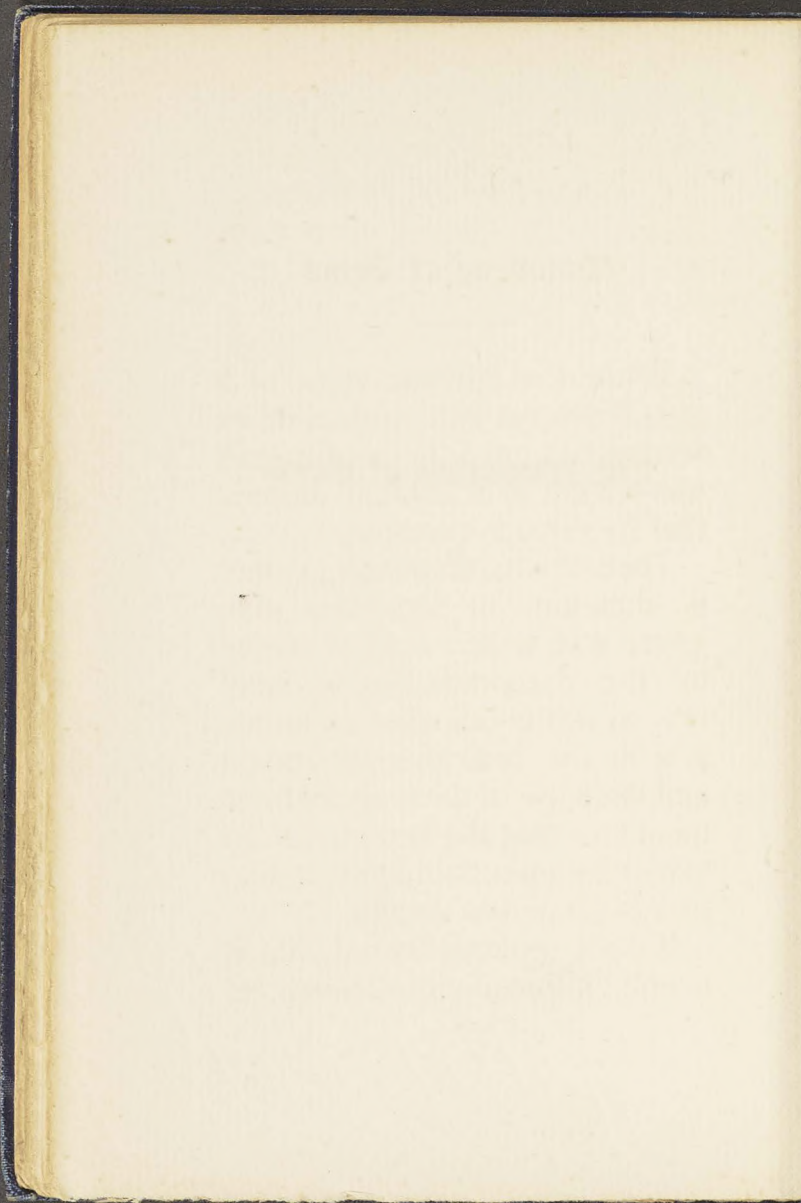


Wedding Anniversaries

1st Year	Cotton
2nd Year	Paper
3rd Year	Leather
4th Year	Books
5th Year	Wooden
6th Year	Garnet
7th Year	Woollen
8th Year	Bric-a-Brac
9th Year	Topaz
10th Year	Tin
12th Year	Silk and fine linen
15th Year	Crystal
20th Year	China
25th Year	Silver
30th Year	Pearl
35th Year	Sapphire
40th Year	Ruby
50th Year	Golden
75th Year	Diamond



The Mounting of Gems



Mounting of Gems

While the intrinsic value of a gem is always independent of its setting, it is, nevertheless, through the setting in a marked degree, that its value is revealed.

The problem of mounting stones is therefore an important one. There is so wide a field of choice in the determination of color effects, in the selection of forms, and in the judicious adaptation and wise use of the material to be mounted, that the services of an expert are essential to the production of successful results.

It must be remembered that it is only within comparatively re-

cent times that jewelry has been recognized as belonging distinctly within the domain of art. This classification is based on the conception that the genuine worth of jewelry lies in its artistic excellence, its fine handiwork, and its exclusiveness, far more than in the value of its components,—in a word—that it depends chiefly on the taste and skill of the artist.

It is said that there is nothing new under the sun, and the present revival is admittedly only the re-affirmation of ideas that were a commonplace of civilization in Cyprus three thousand years ago, and that as late as three centuries ago dominated the artistic life of Italy, Germany, and France.

It is interesting to note in Cellini's autobiography the many conferences he had with Pope

Clement, or with some other patron, over the details of a vase or jewel he was making. If we look for the real charm of those mediæval works of decorative art which are now so highly prized, we shall find it in the fact that each one was fashioned by an individual artist for an individual customer. There was a meeting of minds and the result was the stamp of character and strong individuality.

We are returning to the days of Cellini, and, under proper fostering care, the goldsmith's art of our own country may easily rival that of any nation in the world. Even to-day it is a fact, generally recognized by connoisseurs of jewelry, that we are producing in this country better work than is being made abroad. It is true

that in these productions we are under a heavy intellectual debt to the artists of Paris, Brussels, and Vienna, but the finish of our home product is superior to that of any European jewelry, and it is probable that with the increasing number of American artists and craftsmen now devoting their lives to the production of exquisite jewelry, the desired end may soon be attained.

It is because of the great interest of our firm in this matter of æsthetic jewelry that we have treated it here at some length. We have at our command the services of some of the foremost designers and artisans in this country, and our aim is, so to employ their skill as to place the distinctive stamp of individuality upon every single production of

this house. In this connection, we cheerfully offer our advice and suggestions, without imposing any obligation on visitors, who may always feel assured of our most courteous attention.

