

east of Samland promontory, over which the Bruster Ort sheds its warning light. Here boats are stationed from which the divers descend. As the men in the water become tired out, they are hauled up by their companions. The inspector then removes the amber secured from a kind of pocket, encircling the diver's waist. Then, after a short period of rest, the man goes down again. The work is hard, and the temperature of the sea and air is often very low; and yet these strong men of Samland, continue their occupation year after year, suffering very few accidents, considering the dangers, they must encounter valuable finds.

Valuable Finds.

The finds are very variable. The largest piece of amber yet found, is in the Royal Museum at Berlin, Germany. It weights 18 lbs., and is valued at \$30,000. The usual find, however, ranges from the size of a man's head to little pieces almost like pebbles. The larger pieces are, of course, the rarer, and consequently the more valuable. Loose pieces that have been rubbed together by the action of the sea, supply the less valuable class, while the larger ones are usually found jammed in boulders or in tangles.

The "fishers" will remain down in the sea for from four to five hours a day, according to the season or the weather. In autumn, although the cold is intense, so hard is the work, that they often come to the surface for their spell of rest, bathed in perspiration. In winter, the seas are blocked with ice, and all operations are suspended.

The annual take of amber is by no means uniform. It is difficult to make anything approaching an accurate estimate of the quantity, as full reports seem to be seldom given. The government still exercises a supervision; but that supervision is no longer carried out with rigor, as far as the inhabitants of the Samland villages are concerned. The great firms of Königsberg and Memel, no doubt declare their "take." But between these firms and the casual gatherer, dredger, digger, water-finder and fisher, there is a great gulf fixed. The profits of the latter are, of course, known only to themselves. Merchants go to the beach, and they will buy a parcel of amber from a man or woman, even before the pieces which compose it have become dry.

Amber in the United States.

Amber has been found in this country in the green sand of New Jersey, as well as in the western states; but I cannot find a record of any systematic search for it.

Among the Britons, Celts and Romans, the beautiful mineral to which this paper refers was one of the chief articles of commerce. It was formerly used as a charm against witchcraft, and

many superstitions as to its fancied virtues are still believed by the credulous. It was the main object in many of the voyages of the Phœnicians, and was an article of exchange long before the dawn of history, as we learn from its frequent occurrence in the remains of the lake-dwellers of Switzerland.

When burned, amber exhales a fragrant odor, and it was formerly in high repute as a medicine. An acid, known as succinic, can be obtained from it by distillation, but I do not think that it is used by chemists to any extent. When rubbed, amber becomes strongly electro-negative, and the first exhibition of electric force which received serious attention, was the attraction exerted upon light bodies by amber. This force, at first supposed to be possessed by amber alone, took the name of that substance "elektron," from which our word "electricity" is derived.

Buffalo, N. Y., July 30, 1901.

EXTENSIVE PLANTATIONS OF CATALPA.

The late Dr. John A. Warden made the subject one of deep study, advocated the growing of this timber and planted many catalpa trees.

Mr. H. H. Hunnewell, a wealthy gentleman of Wellesley, Mass., planted a square mile of catalpa timber near Farlington, Kansas, Robert Douglas & Son contracting to furnish and plant the trees—2,000 per acre—or one and a quarter million trees. The planting began in 1879. Mr. Hunnewell at that time being 65 years of age.

Unfortunately this experiment has been a total failure on account of entire want of attention. After twenty-two years the trees are but little larger than they were when six years old—as Mr. Robert Douglas' report shows, 2,000 trees per acre can not develop.

In a state of nature, where time is no object, a thousand years as but a day, a long struggle takes place between the stronger and weaker trees, both robbing the others; eventually a sufficient number succeed by destroying the remainder.

Where dollars are the object and time of great importance, as in an artificial forest, these surplus trees should be destroyed after the object of close planting has been attained, namely, an upright trunk free from side branches to a great height. Otherwise the moisture and nutriment required by the permanent trees will be divided and none receive enough. From a report made by Mr. Douglas in 1885 many of the trees, six years old, measured 18 inches girth. While from sheer neglect and overcrowding there has been a serious loss in subsequent years.

I have personally measured a large number of catalpa trees in Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, Missouri, Illinois, Ohio, Kentucky, District of Columbia, Utah,

California and Indiana, taking trees of known age, and they have averaged one inch diameter increase for each year after planting.

The Pennsylvania Railroad Company planted on its line between Richmond and Indianapolis a large number of catalpa trees, part of which were speciosa and other, bignonoïdes, or southern form. These were allowed to grow at random in a blue-grass sod. They have been cut back often to prevent interference with telegraph wires, and a majority are worthless, from neglect. Yet I measured several that were 48 inches girth after 16 years' growth.

If these trees could be cut down, allowing one shoot to grow from the stump, they would, in five years, produce valuable, straight, thrifty trees of which the company would be proud.

One tree in Miniffee county, Ky., planted in 1840, has a spread of 80 feet diameter, the trunk being 15 feet circumference.

Mr. L. W. Yaggy is the owner of a large farm near Hutchinson, Kansas, on 500 acres of which are growing catalpa trees; 13,000 posts were cut in 1898 after eight years' growth, selling for \$1,300, leaving the remaining trees close enough for perfect development. Mr. Yaggy considers this a very profitable investment.

Mr. D. C. Burson, Topeka, Kansas, speaking of the value of catalpa ties and lumber, says: "Notwithstanding, it makes an almost everlasting tie, the wood is entirely too valuable for that purpose, as the lumber—40 feet b. m. in a tie, is worth from \$2.00 to \$3.00. In fact there is no lumber grown in the United States that is more valuable. It takes a finish equal to San Domingo mahogany." A desk was made from a tree which Mr. Burson had grown from seed planted ten years before. It is highly ornamental, the wood does not warp, expand or contract, says Mr. Burson.

Suel Foster, Muscatine, Iowa, cut a tree of his own planting, at 20 years from the seed; it measured 21 inches across the stump. JOHN P. BROWN, Connersville, Ind.

A MAIDEN ON TIME.

Men claim that women are tardy—in fact that they're never on time, That among their thousand sweet virtues, promptness you never will find.

But, I know of a dear little woman, quite worthy of praises in rhyme,

Who is pretty and gracious and charming, and always, yes, always on time.

She never is fretful and flurried, nor given to dumps nor to tears;

She's a beautiful Grecian maiden who has posed on my clock for years!

—Emma C. Dowd, in The Ladies' Home Journal for August.