

REVIEW.

Gems and Precious Stones of North America: by George Frederick Kunz. New York (*The Scientific Publishing Company*), 1890.

This work has an object which is clearly set forth by the author in his Introduction. It is not a complete treatise on Precious Stones, or on the Science of Mineralogy, but relates almost solely to those precious stones which have been found in North America. A brief general description and a series of recent analyses is given in each case: but the real object is to collect together all the known facts which bear upon the occurrence of precious stones in that part of the New World—such as the localities in which and the conditions under which they occur, the methods by which the search and mining for them are conducted, the value and amount of production; and to present these facts in a form which will render them available, not only for the mineralogist, miner, collector and jeweller, but also for the general public.

For the preparation of such a work the author is unusually well fitted, and has had excellent opportunities. His lengthened service with a large firm of jewellers has kept him in direct touch with precious stones as articles of commerce, and gives an eminently practical character and value to all his information; further he has visited and personally examined many of the localities which it is his province to describe: since 1882 he has been engaged as the writer of an annual report on the precious stones of the United States for the Division of Mining Statistics. Hence, as might have been anticipated, this volume includes a vast amount of useful information which is otherwise inaccessible both to the student and general public.

The minerals discussed are not only those which are regarded as precious, but all those which are used for decorative purposes, and include, for example, sodalite, meerschaum, fluor, and pyrites. There are also chapters on pearls, and on aboriginal lapidarian work in North America.

The work is creditable at once to the author and the publisher: it is printed with large type and on thick paper, while the eight coloured plates are themselves sufficient to make the volume a *livre de luxe*. For these plates no praise can be too high; such representations have never been seen before in any mineralogical treatise: especially worthy of notice are those of cyanite, garnet, tourmaline, microcline, emerald, beryl, amethyst, rutile in quartz, and pearl. There are also sixteen full-page illustrations, and twenty smaller ones in the text.

L. F.