

Wonderful Jewellery.

The wonderful skill of the lapidaries and gem-setters of Manila can hardly be excelled. Strange to say, the jewellers are the women of the population, their taste and workmanship far surpassing those of the men. A writer in the "Manufacturing Jeweller" gives unstinted praise to these designers, who combine the ability of

the Moorish gem-workers with the patience and originality of the Chinese and Japanese craftsmen.

The shops are small, often mere dens, making a strange setting for the beautiful work done in the interior. Rents have been exorbitantly high, and under the Spanish system of taxation it was imprudent for a shop-keeper to display too much stock.

The customer is at first disappointed at the meagre assortment shown, and goes away irritated that he has been

the decoration of grandees' caps; dainty statuettes of coral, with the body and limbs formed of the stem and its branches; rosaries with beads like drops of blood; pendants of pure white pearls; great yellow pearls, the favourites of the Chinese merchants, and costly strings of pink pearls of peculiar iridescence.

As workers in gold and silver, these women are marvellously expert. It does not seem possible that the work the saleswoman is showing can be

golden ferns. Anything more graceful and artistic it would be difficult to find, except, perhaps, in the goldsmitheries of famous Ceylon.

The chatelaine is composed of solid ropes of gold, exact copies of Manila hemp rope even to the threads, with clasps designed like fish-hooks. The hat-pin is a miniature Malay creese, with a water-lily leaf for a handle, and the brooch a golden alligator, the scale work being a most ingenious imitation of nature.



THE MOST ORIGINAL FANCY DRESS AT THE RECENT BALL IN CHRISTCHURCH.

The dress represented pictures from the "Sketch" War Number. Standish & Preece, photo.



THE TRENCHES AT MAGERSFONTEIN.

induced to leave his name and address. Later in the day he receives an urgent invitation to repeat his visit. Should he refuse, the persistent, gentle little brown woman calls on him, or waits patiently on the steps of his hotel, her wares in a locked box under her rebozo.

If the customer pays a second visit to the shop, he is well repaid. It glitters and sparkles with its delicate treasures. Among them are necklaces of delicate pink coral; coral balls for

gold—nothing but gold—so fine and lace-like are the patterns. There is a chain, a necklace, a chatelaine, a hat-pin, and a brooch, all of the deepest yellow gold, from eighteen to twenty-two carats fine, and of exquisite handiwork.

The chain looks like a long, yellow braid of hair, tied at the clasp with a true-lovers' knot, that it may not unravel itself. The necklace is a flexible, delicate veined stem, from which branch pendants of the daintiest

The sum of one hundred and fifty-eight pesetas—thirty dollars and a half in gold—purchases the entire set of five pieces, which is less than would be asked in New York or London for the necklace alone.

The little brown woman has brought the crude gold from the country, made her own alloys, drawing out the gold wire and beating it with a hammer on an anvil, following step by step the most modern and scientific processes of metal smithing.



J. H. Brown, photo.

THE WELLINGTON AMATEUR OPERA SOCIETY IN THE "GRAND DUKE."