

Beads.

5973. These well-known ornamental articles have been in general estimation at all times, and in all countries, and are made of a great number of substances.

5974. *Those of glass* are by far the most general, and are of great antiquity, being found not uncommonly in the ruins of ancient Egypt. The principal manufacture of glass beads of all colours and sizes is at Murano, near Venice, and is thus described: Tubes of coloured glass are drawn out into lengths in the glass-houses, in the same way as our thermometer tubes; these are cut into very short lengths, each sufficient for a single bead, by laying them upon the edge of a fixed chisel, and striking them with a blow; the pieces so formed are then put into a vessel containing fine sand and wood ashes, and shaken about until their bores get filled with wood ashes; they are in that state transferred to an iron pan suspended over a fire, and stirred about as before, by which their sharp angles get fused, and each piece assumes the form of a round bead. When this process is perfected, the whole is taken out, and the ashes cleaned from the bores by washing, when they are ready for use. Prodigious quantities are manufactured in this place, at a cheap rate, and are packed up in casks to be sent all over the world.

5975. Beads made of *coral, jet*, and other substances not fusible, are made by turning. Those of *satin spar* are extremely beautiful; and it is proper to know that beads are also made of *fibrous gypsum* that are so like those of satin spar as often to deceive purchasers, but which are extremely soft, and very easily scratched. Beads of *pearl* are well known; good imitations of these are made by filling hollow glass balls with scales of a fresh-water fish ground up with gum. Some of the *gems* are occasionally employed as beads.

WEBSTER' Thomas, Mrs. Parkes, D. Meredith Reese

1845 An Encyclopaedia of Domestic Economy: Comprising such subjects as are most immediately connected with housekeeping; as the construction of domestic edifices, with the modes of warming, ventilating, and lighting them; a description of the various articles of furniture; a general account of the animal and vegetable substances used as food and the methods of preserving and preparing them by cooks; making bread; materials employed in dress and the toilet; business of the laundry; , from the last London edition, Harper & Brothers, New York.