

MRS. RIVETT-CARNAC.

COLLECTION OF ORNAMENTS WORN BY THE NATIVES OF INDIA. (From the London Exhibition of 1872.) The jewellery in this collection is of glass and gilt.

A.—HEAD ORNAMENTS.

1. "Seethee" or "Bindee." Head ornament. Worn by Hindoo and Mahomedan women in Upper India.
This specimen is made in lac, and is worn by the lower classes only. It is an imitation of the costly gold and jewelled ornaments of a similar shape worn by the rich. The centre point falls back over the hair, and the rosettes are fastened into the ears. These lac ornaments are much worn in Bundelcund (Central India). The lac bracelets in this collection are worn by the same classes. Stick lac is procured in the jungles, and is manufactured in the towns and villages. There are large manufactories of shell lac under European superintendence at Jubbulpore and Mirzapore. A considerable quantity of shell lac is annually exported from India *via* Calcutta and Bombay.
2. "Seethee" or "Bindee." A head ornament in silver similar to the above, and worn chiefly by Hindoos.
The triangular centre-piece hangs over the forehead, and is fastened back into the hair by the chain and hook. The large bosses are fixed into the ears.
3. "Bandnee."
Head ornament somewhat similar to the above-mentioned ones, made of pewter, worn by the lower classes of Hindoos only. The higher classes wear similar patterns in gold and silver.
6. "Seethee" or "Seventee." This is an imitation pearl and diamond head-dress worn by Hindoo women.
The pattern is supposed to represent the blossom of the "seventee," a flower much used in their religious ceremonies. It is worn in the same manner as the before-mentioned head-dresses. These imitation ornaments are chiefly manufactured in Delhi, Benares, and other large cities.
7. "Seethee" or "Seventee."
Pendant imitation jewel, worn singly on the forehead, by both Mahomedans and Hindoos, but as a rule worn by the children, both girls and boys.
- 8, 9. "Bindees."
Worn by all classes, but more especially by the Mahomedans.
10. "Junka."
Worn by Hindoo women in the Hills; the chains are worn across the head, the bell-ends fall over the ears.
11. "Junka."
Worn by Hindoo and Mahomedan women, twisted in the back hair. This is a lac imitation of the more costly kinds.
- 12, 13, 14, 15. "Juma."
Jewelled ornaments. Worn by Mahomedan women, falling low over the forehead.
16. "Juma." A similar ornament in gilt and turquoise.
A very handsome jewelled one displayed by a Benares jeweller had, as pendants, repetitions of an open hand, the crescent and a star, and a feeble imitation of these designs may be traced in the ornament here exhibited.
- 17, 18. "Bij." Worn chiefly by Hindoo women in Bundelcund, fastened into the hair.
These specimens are in lac, and belong to the same class of ornaments as the "seethee" and bracelets mentioned above.
- 19, 1, 2, 3. "Kaitucks." Worn by Hindoo women only.
They are composed of three different ornaments; the round boss is worn in the centre of the hair, on the top of the head; the leaf-shaped and crescent-shaped ornaments are worn in front, towards the forehead. These ornaments are chiefly worn in the Maharatta country.
20. "Rakhdee."
This is the centre piece of the "kaituck," and is worn, as already stated, by Maharattas and Madrassee women. The latter often wear from eight to sixteen smaller circles dotted about their back hair. They are fastened into the hair, sometimes by a spring or spiral twist, sometimes by a metal loop through which is passed a small plaited piece of hair. Hair pins, save as silver ornaments, are unknown.
21. "Parak." Turquoise head-dress. Worn by Ladak and Thibetan women.
This head-dress, somewhat in the shape of a cobra's hood, is worn falling back from the forehead over the head, often to the waist, loaded with turquoise in the rough, and quaint cornelian brooches often engraved. A "parak" is a lady's dower, and until she has one of ordinary dimensions, a girl is supposed not to marry. The hair is plaited into long thin wisps intermingled to lengthen it with false hair made of wool; the different plaits meet at the waist, and there forming one single plait, they fall to the ankles, ending in a bunch of artificial hair similar to the tuft on a cow's tail.
- 22, 24. ——. Silver head-dress.
Worn by the Hindoo women in the Koolu valley and other parts of the Himalaya. The silver boss and tassel hang down on the side of the head.
25. ——. Silver pig-tail.
Worn twisted into the back hair, by both Hindoos and Mahomedans.
- 23, 26, 27. Head ornaments.
- 28, 29. "Kunthia."
Worn by Hindoo and Mahomedan women, drooping over the side of the head, and usually attached by its chains to an equal number of ear-rings.
- 30, 31. "Kunthia."
Commoner specimens of the same ornament.