

CABLE BAY, NELSON.



LONG a beautiful road winding in and out along the sea-border past the Wakapuka hills the traveller by road, after a sixteen-mile drive, arrives at Cable Bay, the terminus of the Trans-Pacific cables. From here there are three cables, one to Wanganui and two to 'La Perouse', Botany Bay, New South Wales. The two latter were laid in 1876 and 1890, respectively, the old cable being 1,292 miles in length, and costing roughly over all £300,000. The new cable

with spare lengths and instruments cost the Company about £200,000, and is 40 miles longer than the old. The mechanism for testing the currents is of the most elaborate order. The lightning guards being especially wonders of ingenuity. The cables themselves are composed of from six to eight layers of material. Taking the old Australian cable as a specimen we find in the centre the wire proper, consisting of seven strands of copper wire, this being covered by a tolerably thick layer of Willoughby Smith's compound of gutta percha, weighing 130lbs. to the mile. This is wrapped round with white tape, and outside again a tape made of a brassy-looking material known as 'Muniz metal,' and next comes a thin strip of hemp-soaked in stearine. The 'coat' of the cable is formed of strong strands of iron wire and hemp rope. The power used is a Minotti electric battery, being a modification of a multi-cellular Daniel battery.

In the Australian cables the greatest sea depth is from 2,700 to 2,800 fathoms, and there are five different 'types' of cable used, the thickness and resisting power varying with the depth of water, the stronger cables being used at the shallower portions, and *vice versa*. The receiving instruments are most interesting. In the receiver generally used the message is actually written on slips of paper by a tiny tube of glass containing ink. This tube is set in motion by the deviations of the magnets, and writes on a revolving scroll. In case of powerful electrical disturbances the old flame method is used. Mr W. W. Browning, who was most kind in affording us all information, said that it required at least two years' experience to become familiar with this method. The Eastern Extension Company afford

ground crushed and bleeding. The mob continued their foulade until the remains had been covered with a cairn of rocks four feet high.

'I afterward learned that the unfortunate, in a moment of anger, had slain a woman, and that the people had taken the law into their own hands and executed him according to their ideas of right.'

The missionary concluded by saying that the stones over the body were never removed, and that the remains were allowed to stay as they had fallen.

CONVICT WEDDINGS.

THE following is the brief but interesting matrimonial procedure which obtains among the convicts in the Russian penal settlement on the island of Saghalien. Immediately after the arrival of each batch of marriageable *deportees* they are paraded with an equal or larger number of male convicts in the garden of the Government House. The *Brutschan* takes place in the presence of the governor or under-governor. The woman chosen by any convict has the right of refusing him. As a rule, it is the bachelor convicts having good conduct marks who are paraded for this interesting ceremony. The men and women are drawn up in two lines facing each other, and a few minutes are allowed for mutual scrutiny. Bashfulness on the part of the aspiring benedicts, and maidenly modesty among the brides seldom distract or procastinate the ceremony. The governor or under-governor, as the case may be, by a gesture of the hand invites the first man in the row to make his choice. 'Your Excellency, I should like like the little woman there, with the peck-pitted face. The governor turns to the little woman, thus ungalantly distinguished by her admirer, with the question, 'Are you willing?' 'Certainly, your Excellency, and the match is made. In this wise the official pairing is continued. Should some of the more coy and fastidious decline anything that offers among the gray garbarded suitors opposite, they are paraded the next day before another motley batch; but, after a third refusal, they are 'shelved' *sine die*. The marriage ceremony of those who pair is usually solemnised on the following day.

CABLE BAY, NELSON



Company's Staff Quarters.

Staff House- Receiving Office, etc.

Testing House at End of Cables.

Cable Bay.

Mount Arthur Ranges.

every inducement to their calets to stay with them, and provide a nice house, boats, billiard-table, etc., to occupy their leisure. The Government officers are situated immediately behind the Company's receiving rooms, and the staff reside at the Bay. Cable Bay is a charming spot altogether, and we have nothing but pleasant memories of our day at the Cable Station. The accompanying sketch shows the station from the Houlder Bank, which stretches across to Lepin's Island.

PRIMITIVE MODES OF JUSTICE.

A RETURNED missionary, who spent a number of years labouring among the heathen in Afghanistan, talking of the summary punishment recently inflicted upon the Italian bandits in New Orleans, said:

'That affair recalls vividly a scene I witnessed in a village called Putka, in Central Afghanistan, some time ago. It seems that some fellow murdered an enemy, and in turn was stoned to death by the outraged populace.

'One morning as I was about to leave my house I saw a yelling mob rushing from all directions toward a large square in the centre of the town, picking up clubs and stones as they ran. I followed, under the belief that rival factions contemplated a battle. When I reached one end of the square a man came running forward followed by a mob of a thousand men, women and children. They hurled stones at him as they ran, and the victim, who probably knew that escape was impossible, ran up and dropped on his knees at my feet. The mob closed around him and pushed me back. A shower of stones were hurled upon him and he fell forward on the

HOW TO AVOID TAKING COLD.

It requires a good deal of intelligence and care to avoid sickness arising from sudden variations of temperature. Unless great care is taken to keep the body at something like an even temperature mischief is very apt to result, and a good deal of it comes from the injudicious use of outer clothing. Some have prejudices against overshoes, especially goloshes, and yet in slushy days nothing but goloshes will keep the feet dry. Others get into trouble by being too indolent to remove their goloshes when in doors, so that their feet perspire and subsequently become chilled. The common-sense rule is to wear goloshes when they are needed, and not to begrudge the time and trouble necessary to take them off when they are not needed.

Overcoats and wraps, while conducive to comfort and health, are also the cause of much illness arising from perspiration and chills. The sensible course is to have garments suitable to various degrees of temperature, and to be careful to wear them at suitable times. One who has much walking to do needs less clothing than one who rides. People do themselves much harm by wearing heavy outer garments in the house. Men are too lazy to take off their overcoats, and women, for various reasons, keep on their furs in church or theatre. The result is that when they go out they get chilled, and start on the high road to bronchitis or pneumonia. Too much care cannot be taken to accommodate the clothing to the temperature. To take off outer clothing at once upon entering the house, unless the house happens to be as cold as out of doors. The changes of temperature are so sudden that both comfort and health are promoted by the possession and use of garments of various thicknesses as they may be required.

There are warm days in winter when the heaviest winter clothing is not only uncomfortable but unhealthy, because of the danger of excessive perspiration and subsequent chills. Outer garments should be made so as to be easily removed. Ladies have heretofore experienced much inconvenience from overheating in furs and heavy wraps at the beginning and end of the season, but fashion has lately come to the rescue with short coats and capes for the milder wintry weather. Many persons suffer inconvenience and illness from wearing too heavy underclothing. The safer course is to put on extra clothing from the outside, so that it may be readily removed as occasion required. A good deal of sickness comes in the winter from injudicious dressing for social events. Both men and women put on evening costumes which are less warm than those they habitually wear during the day. Then they fail to make up the difference in their outside wraps, and when they emerge from heated rooms after an evening's dancing they have laid the foundation for all sorts of pulmonary troubles.

Medical men agree almost unanimously that flanne underwear is almost absolutely essential to health. Those who wear it daily should change it at night. It is better to wear just enough clothing to keep the body comfortably warm under all circumstances, and to spare no pains to adjust the clothing to the circumstances with promptness. There is an old proverb that a man who sits with his back to a draught sits with his face to the grave. Any one who is in a perspiring state and sits in a draught in that state may be certain to pay the penalty in a very short time in pains and aches. Unless carefully used, heavy outer garments will be responsible for much sickness.

CATANZARO.

Few cities have such a magnificent promenade as the Via Bellavista of Catanzaro. The road skirts the edge of the precipice by which the city is built, and the broad river bed at its base seems dwindled to ribbon's width. Hither, at sundown, the citizens and their wives and daughters come to take the air, enjoy the view, see and be seen. The ladies of Catanzaro have long had a reputation for their beauty. When the French soldiers were quartered here in the Napoleonic wars the officers were delighted to find that it was a custom

(breach of which implied extreme discourtesy) for acquaintances of both sexes to kiss each other as a formal method of salutation. They thought no more of it than if they had merely put hand to hand. In his memoirs of the war in Calabria, one of these officers describes the winning way in which the fair girls of Catanzaro, upon an introduction, were wont to make tender of their lips. Alas! however! the spirit of progress which has breathed over Calabria in so many directions during the last century has wrought a change in this respect also. The manners of the young ladies of Catanzaro to-day do not differ much from those of the Neapolitans, and it is no longer the custom to kiss a stranger in sight. Otherwise it is probable the excursion agents of the ribald north of Europe would be quick to advertise tours to this fascinating spot. For my part, I was fain to believe the ladies of the city are not as beautiful as their fame. It might have been different if they had shown the old interest in a stranger. But they showed none, as a matter of fact. They moved up and down the promenade in their stiff, unbecoming finery and tall Paris hats, chattering so fast that the swallows, gyrating athwart the face of Catanzaro's cliffs, seemed to hold their babble for a challenge, and screamed loud in their turn. Nevertheless, for their long, exuberant black hair, and their expressive dark eyes, the ladies of Catanzaro still deserve to be praised.

LADIES, for afternoon tea use Aulsebrook's Oswego Biscuits; a perfect delicacy.-(ADVT.)

'ORB' CORRUGATED IRON is the best iron manufactured, it has no equal.-(ADVT.)