

And no wonder. For we know that liquid air is a giant in strength, and that its energies flow deep in a thousand strange and unaccustomed channels. Thus far we are pretty much like the Lilliputians when they found GULLIVER. Later on we shall know its temper and the lines of its activity better, and shall, as time runs on, harness it into all the varied services that it can do to man. There are features in its character which make contemptuous familiarity with it decidedly unhealthy. It has an insatiable mania for returning to the gaseous state again; and, as it expands to 750 times its liquid bulk at very low temperatures, it will brook no imprisonment. It is an accomplished gaol-breaker, and rips sealed iron and copper tubes to ribbons. It must be kept in open vessels, in touch with the wide, free air from which it came. In direct contact with the flesh, it inflicts a wound that takes long to heal. And mixed with cotton in which charcoal dust has been incorporated, it forms an explosive of an energy like that of dynamite. The newly-found giant has its tempers, but like the showman's man-eating tiger, will probably be 'right enough w'en you come to know 'im.'

One of the most interesting results of Mr. TRIPLER'S invention is the facility it affords of investigating the wondrous effects of intense cold, and that, too, on a scale hitherto impossible. We remember the time when, as a student of physics, we stood awestruck at the laboratory experiment of freezing mercury with a freezing mixture consisting of two parts of snow and three of crystallised chloride of calcium. It effected a depression in temperature of over forty degrees centigrade. But the days of freezing mixtures are numbered. Liquefied air has kicked them out of doors and thrown them over the fence, and given us a new point of measurement and comparison. The expression 'cold as an iceberg' will convey but little meaning to people acquainted with the fearfully low temperature of liquefied air—or of that of hydrogen and helium which have been reduced to the liquid state in small quantities by Professor DEWAR. The relation of ice cold to liquid air cold may be best understood from the fact that a block of ice may be used to *boil* liquid air just as a coal fire may be used to boil water in a kettle. Mr. CLARKE PECKHAM words it thus:—

Liquid air poured upon ice flies off hissing like water from hot iron; but when one reflects that the ice is 314 degrees hotter than the liquid, it does not seem so strange; or to see one's breath, blown into the can of the liquid, sent back instantly, its moisture congealed into a miniature snow-storm. A jet of steam is frozen as quickly, for steam in the open air is only 111 degrees hotter than the breath, while from the temperature of - can to that of liquid air is a terrible drop of 521 degrees. In this freezing effect probably is found the greatest obstacle to the use of liquid air as a motive power. The moisture of the air is deposited rapidly as ice upon the machine, especially around the orifice from which the jet of extremely cold air emerges. This soon closes the orifice and stops the machine.

It freezes an egg so hard in a few seconds that it takes a heavy blow of a hammer to break it. A few ounces of it used at a lecture lowered the temperature of a room by ten degrees, and led to a call for overcoats and wraps—a sign of good omen for our refrigerating plants and frozen meat industry. It liquefies street gas at ordinary atmospheric pressure. It freezes all other liquids. It plays red ruin with the ordinary, everyday qualities of nearly every metal: freezes mercury so hard that a chunk of it has been used to drive nails; makes iron and steel brittle as glass, lead as stiff and elastic as steel. A rubber ball cooled in liquid air is as fragile as an egg shell; but leather remains as flexible after its cold plunge bath as before. And yet seeds of barley, oats, peas, cucumber, and squash, after an immersion of 110 hours at 312 degrees below zero, were slowly thawed out, and sprouted and grew as if they were none the worse for the monstrous freezing they had gone through.

Thus far liquid air is merely in the laboratory stage. GLISSLER'S tubes led to the X-rays. Heaven knows where liquid air is going to lead to. But it is evidently a source of energy with a big future before it. And they that live shall see.

Those who have lost an infant are never without an infant child. The other children grow up to manhood and womanhood, and suffer all the changes of mortality. This one alone is rendered an immortal child. Death has arrested it with his kindly harshness, and blessed it into an eternal image of youth and innocence.

DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN.

The winning numbers in the art union in connection with St. Andrew's Catholic bazaar are published here where.

The Millers Flat correspondent of the Mount *Mail* writes:—The Catholic Church is nearing completion and should the windows arrive during the coming week everything will be in readiness for the opening by the end of the week. The structure, though small, is neatly designed.

A Waitahuna correspondent writes:—Since the Very Rev. Dean O'Leary's departure for the Old Country the Rev. Father Keenan has been our spiritual director. The last few Sundays have been intensely cold, and Father Keenan paid a high tribute recently to Dean O'Leary's zeal and powers of endurance in coming from Lawrence to Waitahuna to say Mass every Sunday. Even in fine weather it must be a severe strain to say Mass in both places, but in the winter months these early morning trips on the Lawrence-Waitahuna road would try an iron constitution.

There was a good attendance at the weekly meeting of the Dunedin Catholic Literary Society, held on Monday evening last, in St. Joseph's Hall, when a lecture on phrenology was given by Mr. Forster. This gentleman is well acquainted with his subject, and during the lecture exhibited a number of drawings, by way of illustration. At the conclusion of the lecture several of the members availed themselves of the opportunity of having their bumps examined. Altogether a most enjoyable and profitable evening was spent. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded Mr Forster for his lecture. Next Monday the Society hold their musical evening to which the members of St. Joseph's congregation will be admitted.

The members of St. Joseph's Cathedral choir entertained Miss Kitty Blaney at a farewell social at St. Joseph's schoolroom, on Tuesday evening, when she was presented with a French marble clock in recognition of the esteem in which she is held by the members, and of her long and valued services to the choir. Rev. Father Murphy presided. Vocal and instrumental selections were given during the evening by some of the ladies and gentlemen present. Father Murphy, in making the presentation, spoke of the recipient's abilities as a vocalist, of the great services she had rendered the choir, the regret felt by the Catholics of Dunedin at her departure from amongst them, and concluded by wishing her every happiness in her new sphere. Mr J. A. Scott, chairman of the choir committee, endorsed what Father Murphy had said regarding Miss Blaney's services as a member of the choir, and whilst expressing his own and the members' regret at her departure, he said she would carry with her their best wishes for her future happiness and prosperity. Other members, also, added their need of praise, and one and all congratulated Miss Blaney on her approaching marriage. Mr P. Carolan returned thanks on behalf of Miss Blaney.

A most successful bazaar (says the *Dunstan Times*) was opened in Clyde on Wednesday afternoon for the purpose of raising funds to build a Catholic chapel in Clyde, on a site which had been kindly given by Mr E. McManus, an old and much respected resident of Clyde. A large gathering attended on Wednesday evening at the bazaar, and we understand over £50 was taken during the day. A number of Cromwell people attended, and gave vocal assistance during the evening, which was much appreciated by those present. Mrs Waddell (as president of the committee), Mrs Dickie (as treasurer), and Miss Farquhar (as secretary) were antiring in their efforts to make the bazaar the success it was. The bazaar was continued on Thursday when business again was brisk. At the close of the bazaar, Mr. R. S. Gilkison kindly acted as auctioneer, and received record prices for the goods he offered. A social then followed, which was largely attended.

A meeting was held in St. Joseph's Hall, Dunedin, on Friday evening for the purpose of taking the necessary steps to start a Catholic Social Club. Rev. Father Murphy presided, and explained the object of the meeting. Mr J. B. Callan warmly supported the proposal, and outlined the main features on which, he considered, a social club could be successfully carried on. Mr F. W. Petre also expressed himself in favour of starting such a club, which, he thought, would be a success if formed on the lines sketched by Mr Callan. In the course of a conversational discussion, in which Rev. Father Cleary, Messrs R. Dobbin, T. Deehan and others took part, it was pointed out that the attendance would have been much larger were it not for the shortness of the notice, and suggested that the meeting should adjourn for a week, so as to allow the proposal to be more fully brought under the notice of the congregation. The suggestion met with the approval of those present, and a committee consisting of the Rev. Father Murphy, Messrs J. B. Callan, F. W. Petre, and Pavlovitch was appointed to draw up a draft scheme to be submitted to a meeting to be held in the same place on Friday evening next.

The farewell concert tendered to Miss Kitty Blaney by the citizens of Dunedin took place in the Garrison Hall on Wednesday evening of last week. The attendance was worthy of the occasion, and worthy of the people of Dunedin. The chief promoters of the concert were the leading musical societies of this city, and in their undertaking they had the enthusiastic support of a committee composed of many of the leading citizens. The compliment was one of which any lady might feel proud, still, notwithstanding the appreciative manner in which the public testified their esteem, it must be admitted it was nothing more than Miss Blaney deserved, as her services had ever been at the command of those interested in any good cause. The knowledge of Miss Blaney's great abilities as a vocalist has not been confined to Dunedin. She has a well-established reputation all over the Colony, and if the people of Dunedin are proud of her as a singer, they are still prouder of the generous and ungrudging manner in which she has always utilised her great abilities for every worthy object. It was only natural and right, then, that on the eve of her departure from this city her friends should testify, in a tangible manner, their appreciation of