

SCOTLAND—Young Men's Societies

After an absence of thirty years the annual conference of the Catholic Young Men's Societies of Great Britain re-assembled in Dundee on August 4. Founded half a century ago, this organisation, dedicated to the welfare of the young men of the Church has spread its ramifications over every part of the United Kingdom, and the conference was this year attended by nearly 200 delegates, representing a membership of 17,000. The delegates were accorded a civic reception in the Victoria Art Galleries, where they were welcomed by the Lord Provost, Magistrates, and Town Councillors of the city. On the following Sunday a series of meetings was held for the transaction of business, culminating in a great demonstration in the evening, when over 2000 persons assembled in the Kinnaird Hall. The Most Rev. Dr. Lyster, Bishop of Achonry, who was accompanied by many dignitaries of the Church, and prominent laymen, delivered the inaugural address.

Death of a Well-known Catholic

The death of Mr. George Gordon, surveyor, late of Banffshire, which sad event took place at his residence, Chalmers street, Edinburgh, was very much regretted by a wide circle of friends. The deceased, who had been ailing for some time, belonged to an influential Highland family, but had been living in Edinburgh for a considerable time.

UNITED STATES—Another Cardinal

Asked by an interviewer if there is a possibility of the appointment of another American Cardinal, his Eminence Cardinal Gibbons slowly stroked his chin, looked up at the sky a second, and then said: 'Who knows? His Holiness alone can say what ought to be done. What ought to be will be done in due time.'

The Powers of the Ant

Because of his extraordinary feats of strength, the ant may well be styled the Samson of the insect world. In handling the heavy bodies of other insects that it makes its prey the ant shows wonderful strength.

One of these little creatures, three-eighths of an inch long, can kill and drag away the heavy bodies of caterpillars, spiders, and maggots. A nest of ants has been known to destroy twenty-eight caterpillars and grasshoppers a minute—nearly 1500 an hour. Several harvesting ants of the tiniest species known one day discovered two large cockroaches, two inches long and one-half inch wide, on a shelf four feet from the floor. Killing their prey, the ants drew the bodies along the rough board for more than two feet, dropped them to the ground, dragged them over a long stretch of rough rubble, and passed them between two slabs of wood into the nest, all in the short space of one half-hour.

Recently the ant has been trained to lift coin 500 times its weight or to drag a miniature silver coach 1300 times its weight; but these feats are of small moment compared to its incessant burden-bearing capacity during a short span of life.

Perhaps its athletic development is largely due to the exemplary life and correct habits of the insect. In the first place, it is absolutely cleanly, not only as regards its surroundings, but its food. It manifests up-to-date ideas upon the subject of sanitation. No refuse is allowed to remain near the dwellings; drainage and ventilation are always good. When an ant is moving on its forays, a stream of water is not permitted to interfere with progress. In overcoming this difficulty, the ant employs its strength no less than its intelligence.

Frequently South American military ants, in their forays, seek trees that overhang streams and cross on them. If no such bridge is to be found, they repair to a sandy beach and proceed to make a ferry. Each ant pulls a piece of dry wood, much larger than itself, into the water, mounts it, and is pushed by rows of comrades out into the stream. The pieces of wood are held together by the insects, until, in a short time, the stream is covered with a long line of linked ferryboats. When this line becomes unwieldy, those nearest the opposite shore break the connecting links and land, while the ants on the starting side work away at enlarging the ferry till all are across.

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Domestic

By 'Maureen'

Cleaning an Old Clock.

Have any of our readers a clock they value that seems to be near the end of its career of usefulness? Does it skip a beat now and then, and when it begins to strike seem to be in pain? Take a bit of cotton batting the size of a hen's egg, dip it in kerosene and place it on the floor of the clock in the corner, shut the door of the clock and wait three or four days. Your clock will be like a new one—skip no more, it will strike as of old, and as you look inside you will find the cotton batting black with dust. The fumes of the oil loosen the particles of dust, and they fall, thus cleaning the clock.

Keeping Gloves Clean.

Gloves should never be rolled or folded, as either treatment makes them look crumpled and unattractive. Gloves can be saved in many little ways and their term of usefulness prolonged. The handle of a chatelaine bag will wear a glove white, so it should be carried on the wrist. Silk and lace gloves should be washed on the hands. These gloves are both practical and economical, and may be worn for a considerable length of time with careful handling in their washing. If care is not exercised, however, they will shrink and thicken up so as to become quite useless. They should be washed in tepid water, and afterwards rinsed in several clear tepid waters while still on the hands. Do not pass the soap through the hands, but always use the soapy water. A drop or two of ammonia in the second and last rinsing waters will prevent the gloves from becoming yellow. These washable gloves should be allowed to dry if possible on wooden hands; if removed while only partly dry they will stretch out of shape.

Soap-Making.

For soft soap, allow to five pounds of grease three pounds of washing soda and four gallons of boiling water. Put into a small tub and let it stand for several days until the grease is eaten up. Stir every day, using a wooden paddle. If too thick add more water. If wood ashes are used, instead of soda, boil the mixture. You can tell when the grease is all absorbed by dropping a spoonful of the melted soap into a glass of water, when any grease remaining will show on the surface.

To make hard soap, add to three pounds of washing soda a pound and a half of unslaked lime and two gallons of boiling water. Let it stand until perfectly clear, then drain and add three pounds good clean fat. Put over the fire and boil until the mixture hardens, which will be in the course of two or two and a half hours, but watch and stir most of the time. After the mixture has boiled half the time add one gallon of cold water, which was poured on the sediment remaining after the two gallons of water were drained off. Just before taking from the fire add a handful of salt. Wet a small tub to prevent sticking, turn in the soap and let it stand until solid. Cut into cakes and put on a shelf to dry.

A delightfully pure toilet soap is made in this way: Add to one quart pure olive oil three pints of boiling water, in which four tablespoonfuls of refined potash have been dissolved. Have the oil at the boiling point in a porcelain-lined kettle before the potash water is added, then cook and stir with a wooden spoon until a little dropped on a cold plate will thicken like jelly. Take care that the soap does not boil over, as it is very apt to do if left alone. When nearly hard add a little scented oil, verbenia, lavender or rose, then pour into moulds to harden. When hard take out and pack where it will dry and season. After you have the knack of making soap, it is a good idea to make in quantity and keep ahead, as the older and harder it gets the better its lasting qualities.

*Maureen***HOW TO PAINT A HOUSE CHEAP.**

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