

Science Siftings

By 'Volt'

Spiders.

Spiders are not insects, as most people think. The spider has eight legs, whereas an insect cannot have more than six. The nervous system is constructed on a totally different basis, and so are the circulation and respiration. The eyes are different, the insects having many compound eyes and the spider never having more than eight and all of them simple. Then a spider has no separate head, the head and the thorax being fused together.

The Mineral Jade.

Most people have probably seen jade ornaments without having a very clear idea of the material of which such things are composed. Jade is an exceedingly tough but beautiful mineral, much of which is found in China. It is of five colors, the most highly prized jade being the white, yellow, and green varieties. The rarest of all is red jade, but this is so scarce that it has no place in market valuations. The mineral is frequently found in the beds of streams, and in searching for it Mohammedans are generally employed, as it is believed that people of this faith are sensitive to its presence, and, like the water finders, are affected with shuddering fits when passing over a place where jade is to be found.

The Banana.

The banana was named *musa* after Antonius Musa, the freedman and physician of the great Augustus of the Romans, says Linnaeus. The sapientum—the wiseness—in its name is a graceful tribute to it as the 'wise man's food,' for, incredible as it may seem, it is perhaps the best food product of the earth, being far more productive than either wheat or potatoes, the staple food of other nations. Long ago it was calculated that it is 133 times as productive as wheat and 44 times as productive as the potato—in other words, that the ground that would give 33 pounds of wheat or 99 pounds of potatoes would, so far as mere space is concerned, give 4000 pounds of bananas and with a fractional amount of the same trouble. It has been called the 'prince of the tropics' because it takes the same place, only to an even greater degree, in those hot countries that wheat, rye, and barley take in west Asia and Europe and that rice takes in India and China.

The Navigation of the Air.

The 'Lancet,' discussing the future of aero-traffic, asks whether the new kind of locomotion is calculated to bring fresh ills to the human race, and says:—'Travelling by aeroplane is calculated in some directions to be a healthy mode of getting about from place to place. The vehicle will rise above the impurities contained in the air of the streets, and even may reach a level far removed from the madding crowd of microbes. The aeroplane, it may be assumed, will soar. It need not be at a great height, yet nevertheless into the regions of air purified by light ozone and the process of sedimentation. All this sounds ideal, but on the other hand, there will be a diminution of pressure which may unfavorably affect the heart's action, for the pulse rate increases as the atmospheric pressure is withdrawn, secretions are diminished, while evaporation from the skin and lungs is decidedly augmented. At extreme heights there are swellings of the veins and bleeding from the nose, and there is a sense of being unable to use the legs and arms. Distressing symptoms of mountain sickness may even be simulated during a journey in an aeroplane. Doubtless, however, all these evils could be avoided by keeping the aeroplane as much as possible within certain limits of elevation and at a uniform level.'

For Children's Hacking Cough at night Woods' Great Peppermint Cure. 1s 6d and 2s 6d....

MYERS & CO., Dentists, Octagon, corner of George Street. They guarantee the highest class of work at moderate fees. Their artificial teeth give general satisfaction, and the fact of them supplying a temporary denture while the gums are healing does away with the inconvenience of being months without teeth. They manufacture a single artificial tooth for Ten Shillings, and sets equally moderate. The administration of nitrous oxide gas is also a great boon to those needing the extraction of a tooth....

• Intercolonial

His Eminence Cardinal Moran blessed a new school-church at Dulwich Hill on Sunday, April 28. The cost will be close on £900, and a sum of over £250 was subscribed at the ceremony.

Mr. Loughlin, of Ballarat, who is said to have given £30,000 towards the building of a cathedral at Kilkenny, leaves shortly for Ireland to be present at the opening.

Various changes are taking place in connection with the Diocese of Bathurst. Owing to the death of Ven. Archdeacon D'Arcy at Wellington the Right Rev. Mgr. Long has been appointed to the vacant position. Rev. Father Lawler, of Mudgee, will proceed to Gulgong, and Monsignor O'Donovan will, as formerly for some forty years, be head of the Catholic Church in Mudgee and district.

The new church at Michelago, erected in memory of the late Rev. James H. O'Gorman, who for some years had charge of the parish of Michelago, was blessed and opened on Sunday, March 28, by the Rev. John O'Gorman, of St. Mary's Cathedral, Sydney, brother of the deceased. The church has been erected at a cost of close on £1100, and the collection at the opening ceremony amounted to £350.

At a recent concert promoted by the Bendigo Eight Hours' Anniversary Committee, a juvenile choir contest was held. The result of the concert was most satisfactory to the Catholic schools, St. Kilian's Girls' School receiving first award, while the Marist Brothers' No. 1 choir obtained second honors. In making his award, the adjudicator, Mr. Robson, of Ballarat, said he was very pleased indeed with the effort of the winning choirs that night, and it was not often he was privileged to hear such good voices so well trained.

His Grace the Archbishop of Melbourne has made the following changes in the location of priests in the Archdiocese:—Rev. P. J. Fallon, from Camberwell to Essendon, as assistant to Rev. D. B. Nelan, P.P.; Rev. M. J. Dolan, from Bacchus Marsh to the charge of Powlett River mission; Rev. P. Parker, from Powlett River to the charge of Heidelberg mission, in the room of the Rev. D. O'Callaghan, who, for health reasons, has been granted twelve months' leave of absence; Rev. T. Bride (recently ordained), to Bacchus Marsh, as assistant to the Rev. D. Horan.

The death is reported of Mr. Arthur Collingridge, of Ryde, a well-known artist, at the age of 54 years. The deceased was a native of Oxfordshire, but received his education in Paris, where he studied art. At the time of the Franco-Prussian war he returned to England, and joined the staffs of the 'Illustrated London News' and 'Graphic.' Later on he was connected with some of the leading illustrated papers in Paris. He came out to Australia in 1879, and the following year, in conjunction with his brother, he formed the Royal Art Society in New South Wales. Mr. Collingridge began to ail about three months ago, and gradually grew worse until Sunday, April 28, when he passed away, fortified with all the rites of the Church. The deceased leaves a widow, eight sons, and four daughters to mourn their loss.

The Very Rev. M. J. O'Reilly, President of St. Stanislaus' College, Bathurst, in his address at Perth Convent said that the other day a rev. gentleman in Bathurst delivered a lecture, 'the terrible burden of which was: 'How those dreadful Romans are getting on!' They are breaking out like measles everywhere, not suppressed measles, either. Anywhere they can get a little colony, they have a knack of putting up a church, then a school, and then a presbytery. Father O'Reilly said that he had to apologise for his inability to controvert the statement that the Catholics were getting on too well. It must be exasperating, he said, to people without charity. As far as they contributed to exasperating those people, he was an extremely sorry man, 'but,' he added amidst laughter, 'we have no intention of amending our lives.'

Man wants but little here below
When wintry winds commence to blow,
With sleet and rain and hail and snow,
Man wants but little here you know.
But that same little that he wants
Must make him always feel secure,
The wise man knows, so off he goes
To purchase Woods' Great Peppermint Cure.