

## Science Siftings

By 'Volt'

### The Supply of Fresh Water.

Geologists find that the fresh water supply of the globe is failing. They have data which point to the gradual withdrawal of the streams and other bodies of water from the surface. Both in Africa and Central Asia, and, indeed, in all the great levels, the water-beds are drying up. A great number of lakes, well known in historical ages, have entirely disappeared. For example, Lake Chiroua, in Africa, has vanished within the past twenty years, as has also Lake Agamj, discovered by Livingstone. Lake Tchad is more than half dried up. For centuries bodies of water in Central Asia have been evaporating and the deserts extending. Where two thousand years ago great cities stood in East Turkestan, there are found only vast and depressing stretches of sand. The River Tarim, once a principal Asiatic route, is almost gone, and Lob-Nor, formerly four times the area of Lake Geneva, is now but a shallow marsh. The same sad conditions are noted in European Russia. Novgorod, the most pushing city in the Czar's distracted realm, was surrounded by water in the middle ages. The facts recited to show the drying-up process are convincing proofs of the need of preserving the forests with more care.

### An Eighteenth Century Typewriter.

Many persons will be surprised to learn that the typewriter is not, as they imagined, a distinctly modern invention. So long ago as 1714 a patent was taken out in England by Henry Mill for a machine for pressing letters singly and progressively, as in writing, whereby all writings may be engrossed in paper so exact as not to be distinguished from print. His machine was very clumsy, and practically useless, however. It was not until more than a century later (1829) that anything more was attempted. Then the first American typewriter, called a typographer, was patented by W. A. Burt. In 1835 a machine was produced in France, having a separate key-lever for each letter, and between the years 1840 and 1860 Sir Charles Wheatstone invented several machines which are now preserved in the South Kensington Museum, London. In 1873, C. L. Sholes, an American, after five or six years' work, succeeded in producing a machine sufficiently perfect to warrant extensive manufacture. He interested E. Remington and Son, the gun manufacturers, in it, and in 1874 the first model of the modern typewriter was put upon the market.

### Why a Fly Walks Upside Down.

The ability of the fly to walk along the ceiling or up and down a pane of glass is a matter that is constantly puzzling boys and girls, and older people, too, and a simple explanation of it here might be of interest. As insignificant a creature as the fly is, this power has made it the subject of scientific study for years. The scientists at first thought its feet were furnished with suction pumps, so to speak, little valves that clung to the ceiling on the same principle as that of the wet leather disc that boys lift bricks with. When they found that this was an error, they thought that the fly's feet were supplied with a kind of sticky oil that enabled it to hold on. But a careful experimenter discovered that while the feet exude a fluid it is not sticky, and so that theory had to be given up. Finally this same experimenter hit on the truth. He found that the feet of the fly are covered with minute hairs—each fly has about twelve thousand of them—and that the fluid that comes from them enables the fly to walk, head down, on even the smoothest surface, by capillary attraction—that is to say the fluid on the fly's feet forms a sort of connection between the feet and the surface the fly walks on, and the attraction thereby established is strong enough to sustain several times the weight of the fly. It is impossible for the fly to get along well unless its feet are perfectly clean, and when you see it apparently making its toilet by rubbing its feet together and all over its wings and back it is simply putting its feet in order.

'The publication of an advertisement in a Catholic paper shows that the advertiser not only desires the patronage of Catholics, but pays them the compliment of seeking it through the medium of their own religious journal.' So says an esteemed and wide-awake American contemporary. A word to the wise is sufficient....

## Intercolonial

Mr. and Mrs. P. Gleeson, of 'Riverview,' Napier, (says the 'Freeman's Journal') are spending a few weeks in Sydney.

The Very Rev. Dean Ryan, of Mount Gambier, is to receive a presentation this month in recognition of the fact that he has been a quarter of a century in charge of the Catholic Church there.

The Rev. Fathers C. F. O'Sullivan and W. O'Connor, who recently arrived in New South Wales from Killarney, intend making a tour of Australia for about twelve months, and will then return to Ireland.

At the Queensland elections last week the Government (was badly defeated. The Ministerial candidates returned numbered only twenty, whilst the Kidstonites were credited with twenty-five, and the Labor party with a like number.

The Mother Superior (Sister Mary Francis Borgia) of the Mudgee Convent of Mercy has been transferred to the position of Mother Superior of the Bathurst Convent. The place she has so ably occupied will be filled by Sister Justinian, who will be accompanied by two Sisters from Bathurst.

The death occurred at Grafton on January 25, of the Very Rev. Dean Bean. The deceased was a native of Dublin, and was in his 59th year. He was a member of the Vincentian Order, and spent many years in Ireland as a missionary. He was parish priest of Grafton since 1890, and was beloved by priests and people in the diocese of Lismore.

The Sacred Heart Hall, Grey-street, St. Kilda West (says the Melbourne 'Advocate') was well filled on Thursday night, 23rd January, when a warm welcome home was tendered to the Rev. W. Ganly, the respected pastor, who has come back from a trip to Europe, strong in health and with a new lease of life. The hall had been tastefully decorated for the occasion. Dr. M. U. O'Sullivan, K.C.S.G., presided. At the close of a high-class concert, Dr. O'Sullivan presented an address to Father Ganly on behalf of the parishioners. Father Ganly, after thanking his people for their address, gave an interesting account of his travels in various countries.

The Rev. Father Michael Sherin, of St. Mary's Cathedral (says the 'Catholic Press'), who recently underwent an operation for appendicitis in St. Vincent's Hospital, leaves for Europe in company with the Rev. Fathers P. L. Coonan (Forest Lodge), and Thomas Phelan (Lewisham). It is hoped that the trip will restore him to his former vigor. Father Sherin is a nephew of his Grace Archbishop O'Reilly, of Adelaide. A few days ago a large number of the priests of the city and suburbs met Father Sherin at St. Mary's Presbytery to wish him bon voyage, and to present him with a cheque for £170 to mark their esteem and appreciation of him.

Speaking at the blessing and opening of additions to St. Aloysius' College, Milsons Point, Sydney, a few Sundays ago, his Eminence Cardinal Moran referred to the great factors in the building of a State—religion, enlightenment, and patriotism. He trusted that St. Aloysius' College would not only promote these three great factors, but it would work to combat the false tendencies that were around them in Australia at the present day. The first was the idolatry of sport. There were the legitimate amusements and exercises for everything that would strengthen a man and prepare him for his future career of life, but there was also the idolatry of sport, set up on a monument which a country aimed at as the great purpose of life. Such brought them down to a lower level than that to which they should aspire.

The Rev. Father M. Lynch, assistant priest at SS. Michael and John's, Horsham (Vic.), died on January 18 from heart failure, which was accelerated by the intense heat. He celebrated Mass at Rupanyup and Murlua, leaving the latter place at 6 o'clock in the afternoon with one of the parishioners. When three or four hours out he suddenly collapsed, and was driven with all haste to Jung, where unsuccessful efforts were made to restore animation. When the doctor arrived from Murtoa he pronounced life to be extinct. Father Lynch was fifty years of age, born at Ennis, County Clare, and was ordained at St. Patrick's, Melbourne, twenty-five years ago. He had been successfully stationed at Stawell, Hamilton, Watchem and Maryborough, and was at Horsham twenty years ago for a short period. He returned six years ago, and since had remained there permanently.

# DEAR ME!

Forgotten that SYMINGTON'S COFFEE ESSENCE! Whatever shall I do? Call at the nearest Store and ask. THEY ALL KEEP IT