

## Science Siftings

Photographs by Wireless Telegraphy.

Pascal Berjonneau, an inventor, exhibited recently in Paris before a number of persons interested in scientific investigation a new telephotography apparatus which can be adapted to the wireless system or to the ordinary telegraph wires system. He transmitted the picture of one of the audience without the aid of wires from one end of the hall to the other. The inventor claims that distance does not interfere with the effectiveness of his method. Photographs, he says, can be sent by it between New York and Paris.

The Floor of the Pacific.

The red clay which covers the deep floors of the Pacific and the Indian oceans is made up of refuse and residue—that which can withstand the strong chemical action of the gases. In it may be found decomposed volcanic rock, pumice, zeolitic crystals, manganese, oxides, meteoric iron, teeth of sharks, and ear bones of whales. Few if any shore deposits are apparent in it. The rock is vitreous refuse, belched forth by subterranean or insular volcanoes. The minerals are supposed to be of cosmic origin—planetary dust and meteoric fragments that have fallen into the sea and have become disintegrated. The great quantity of sharks' teeth remains quite unaccounted for—at least their apparent gathering together in these ocean basins is considered very strange.

How Celluloid is Made.

Celluloid, the chemical compound which bears so close a resemblance to ivory, is a mixture of collodion and camphor, invented in 1855 by a Birmingham man. The process of manufacture is as follows: Cigarette paper is soaked in a mixture of nitric and sulphuric acids until it becomes nitro-cellulose. After thoroughly washing, to free it from the acids, this cellulose is dried, mixed with a certain quantity of camphor, and coloring matter if required, and then passed through a roller mill. It is next formed into thin sheets by hydraulic pressure and afterward broken up by toothed rollers and soaked some hours in alcohol. A further pressure and a hot rolling process finish it, and results in ivory-like sheets half an inch thick.

The Zuyder Zee to Give Place to Land.

Holland, with its 5,000,000 people, living safely behind their wave-washed dykes, is about to make a new conquest from the old enemy, the ocean. Already Dutch engineers have begun the tremendous task which will result in turning the Zuyder Zee into 1400 square miles of dry land. Where of old the great Dutch war fleets gathered, where now 4000 fishermen sink their nets, there will rise happy villages, broad pastures, poplar-bordered roads, and sleepy canals—new farms and homes for 50,000 Dutchmen. The task to be undertaken is a tremendous one. It will cost nearly £15,000,000. In return the government expects to secure annual rentals of more than £1,000,000 from those who occupy and till the hard-won ground.

A Plant that Coughs.

'I heard a cough, and looked behind me nervously,' said a huntsman, 'for I was stalking gazelles in that lion-colored waste, Sahara Desert, and, having gotten rather too far south, I expected at any moment to become a pin-cushion for the poisoned darts of the dread Touaregs. But there was no one there. The flat desert quivered in the sunshine, and here and there a dusty plant stood wearily. But though I commanded the landscape for a radius of fifty miles, not a living creature was in sight. Another cough. I swung around quickly. The same plant, yellow with dust, drooped in the dry heat. That was all. "Hack! Hack!" On my left this time. I swung around again. A like plant met my eye. The thing was growing rather ghastly. As I regarded this last plant a cough came from it. Believe me, the plant coughed! It shook all over, and then, tightening up as a man does when he is about to sneeze, it gave a violent cough, and a little cloud of dust arose. I found out afterwards that the plant was the coughing bean, which is common in many tropical countries. In the long, dry heats this weird growth's pores become choked with dust, and it would die of suffocation were it not that a powerful gas accumulates inside it, which, when it gains sufficient pressure, explodes with a sound precisely like the human cough. The explosion shakes the plant pores free of their dust, and the coughing bean is in good health again.'

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## Intercolonial

The Very Rev. G. O'Farrell, O.P., after a long stay in St. Vincent's Hospital, Sydney, consequent upon his serious accident near Molong, has returned to North Adelaide. He is still on crutches, and it will be some time before he has the use of his injured limb.

The Rev. T. Dooley died on February 10, at the residence of his Lordship Dr. Gibney, at Perth, as the result of an apoplectic seizure. He was 71 years of age, and was a native of Longford, Ireland. He had spent thirty years in Western Australia.

Their Excellencies the Governor-General and Lady Northcote were present at the Requiem High Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne, for the repose of the souls of the late King Carlos and the late Crown Prince of Portugal. Sir Reginald Talbot, Governor of Victoria, was also present.

The death is reported of the Very Rev. William M. Walsh, pastor of Townsville, who passed away on February 16 at the residence of his sister, Mrs. T. Dalton, senr., Willoughby, New South Wales, at the age of 65 years. Father Walsh was born in the diocese of Waterford, and in 1856 he entered Mount Melleray College. Two years later he pursued his studies at All Hallows College, Dublin, was ordained priest in the year 1864, and was appointed to the diocese of Brisbane (Q.). Subsequently he was attached to the American missions for a time, but returned to Brisbane. About twenty-five years ago Father Walsh was appointed to Townsville, where he remained in charge till his death.

On his return to Cairns from his visit to Rome, the Right Rev. Dr. Murray, Bishop of North Queensland, was given an enthusiastic welcome by his people. During his absence in Europe, and without his knowledge, they had prepared a fine new residence for him. In replying to addresses of welcome, his Lordship said that if he could take them up to St. Monica's Presbytery, and conduct them through the magnificent mansion, there were voices there silent, but eloquent, that had spoken to him that morning. There was a house prepared without his knowledge or co-operation, of which a prince might be proud. To all residents of the district he tendered his most sincere and heartfelt thanks.

The Archbishop-elect of Hobart will leave Hobart for Rome on March 7. Immediately after the interment of the late Archbishop Dr. Delany cabled to the Cardinal Prefect of Propaganda formally notifying to the Holy See the death of his predecessor, and petitioning for the necessary faculties. His Eminence Cardinal Gotti promptly replied, granting all that was asked for, viz., all necessary faculties and power to perform certain pontifical acts. His Eminence also kindly promised at the next Consistory to postulate for the pallium in the Archbishop-elect's name. The next Consistory will, it is said in Rome papers just to hand, be held in March. Dr. Delany will be in Rome very soon after, and will thence proceed to Ireland, where he hopes to secure a foundation of teaching Brothers for Tasmania.

The Christian Brothers' College, Perth, has once again given the Rhodes Scholar to Western Australia. The Selection Committee, consisting of the Acting-Governor, Chief Justice Burnside, the Minister for Education, and the Inspector-General of the State Schools, have selected Mr. J. W. Horan, of the Christian Brothers' College, as this year's candidate for Oxford. Mr. Horan, who holds a record of which he has good reason to be proud, was born at Mitcham, Victoria, and went to the Western State eleven years ago, when his parents settled on the goldfields. In 1901 he commenced his scholastic successes by being the first boy from the goldfields to pass the Adelaide Primary University Examinations. In 1903 he took up his residence as boarder in the Christian Brothers' College, Perth; the following year (1904) he was placed first in West Australia and second in the two States (South and Western Australia) on the general honors list of the Adelaide Junior University. He passed in the maximum number of subjects, ten, securing honors in five; in this examination he had to compete against over 700 candidates. For this distinction he was awarded the first of the five Government exhibitions of £15. In 1905 he tied with a South Australian boy for first place in University Senior of all the under-age students from South and West Australia. In 1906 he secured the first of the Government Exhibitions of £25 from all West Australian students in the Senior University, whilst at the end of 1907 he crowned his previous successes by obtaining first place in the State in the Adelaide Higher Public University Examination. His successes include first-class honors in Latin, Greek, German, French, English, Trigonometry, Algebra, and Geology.

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