

## Intercolonial

Among the passengers by the French mail steamer which arrived in Sydney last week were eight priests from France, who are to take up missionary work in the South Sea Islands.

Four Irish priests arrived in Sydney on October 31 by the Orient mail steamer. All came from All Hallows College, Dublin, and were the Rev. Fathers Bernard O'Farrell, Michael O'Connell, Daniel O'Sullivan, and John O'Reilly.

News was received in Carcoar the other day that the Rev. Philip Ryan, first resident priest of the district, had passed away at Mount Melleray, Waterford, on October 1. He had been a member of the Community for the past twenty-six years.

The report of the Registrar for the year 1907 shows that the people who constitute the membership of friendly societies in New South Wales have shared in the general prosperity. New societies increased from 45 to 62, while membership of friendly societies proper went up to 116,985, an increase of 10,307 on the previous year.

The Rev. Fathers Flannery and Rohan, from All Hallows College, Dublin, and the Rev. Father O'Ryan, from Thurles College, arrived recently in Melbourne. They have been temporarily appointed by the Vicar-General as follows (says the *Advocate*):—Father Flannery to Collingwood; Father Rohan to Flemington; and Father O'Ryan to the Cathedral. Four young Australians will be ordained to the priesthood at St. Patrick's College, Manly, Sydney, on the 30th inst., the feast of St. Andrew, and on their arrival in Melbourne fixed missions will be assigned to them, as well as the new arrivals from Ireland.

News of the death by drowning of the Rev. Father Perthuis, a French missionary stationed in the New Hebrides, and of one of the Sisters of the mission, was brought to Sydney (says the *Freeman's Journal*) by the French steamer *Pacifique*. The deceased were on their way from the island of Ambrym to the island of Mallicolo in an open boat, when the little craft was suddenly struck by a squall, and was either overturned by the violence of the wind or was driven on to a reef and capsized. The identity of the Sister had not been established when the *Pacifique* left, but it was gathered from the natives that the victim was either Sister Clemeaneau or Sister Marie Jacques. The crew of ten natives clung to the bottom of the upturned boat, and were subsequently rescued.

His Eminence Cardinal Moran has made the following changes and appointments in the archdiocese of Sydney:—The Rev. E. Hanrahan, from Araluen to Cobargo; Rev. M. McNamara, from Cobargo to Araluen. The Rev. William Barry, of St. Mary's Cathedral, has been appointed Administrator of St. Joseph's Church at Newtown, during the vacancy created by the death of the Very Rev. Dean Slatery. The Rev. R. Murray will leave Bega to assist in the Wollongong parish. The Rev. T. Vaughan leaves Bulli for Bega. The Rev. John O'Reilly will act as assistant at Bulli; the Rev. Bernard O'Farrell at St. Augustine's, Balmain; the Rev. M. O'Connell, at Erskineville; the Rev. D. O'Sullivan, at Moruya; and the Rev. R. O'Regan, jun., will leave Moruya for St. Mary's Cathedral parish, where he will assist.

Miss Pauline S. Gill, a native of this State (says the *Sydney Freeman's Journal*), has obtained the unique distinction of taking first place in all Ireland at the Intermediate Examination just held there, thus securing the coveted medal. She also secured the medal for first place, second year in experimental science. Those medals (says an exchange) are looked upon as the badge of the highest test of efficiency in the student. Miss Gill also won several money prizes. She received her primary education from the nuns of St. Joseph, Sydney, and is at present being educated by the Loretto Order at their College, Stephen's, Green, Dublin. A branch of this famous Order is located at Normanhurst, North Sydney line. Miss Gill, it may be mentioned, was much junior in years to her fellow-competitors at this examination.

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## Science Siftings

BY 'VOLT'

Measuring the Heat of the Body.

By means of an ingenious instrument, it is ascertained that a woman's body is warmer than that of a man by about three-fourths of a degree, and sometimes as high as one degree, while in no instance has the warmth of a man's body been found to be greater than that of a female. It is also definitely ascertained that children are decidedly warmer than adults, the difference being about one degree Fahrenheit; the younger the child, the greater is the diversity. A difference in the heat of the sides of the body is discovered to be an invariable law. The left side of the head, and extending downward to the base of the neck, is much hotter than the right side. These facts open up to medical men a new line of research and inquiry.

Tree Life.

Brazilian cocoanut palms live from 600 to 700 years, and the Arabs assert that the date palm frequently reaches the age of 200 to 300 years. Wallan's oak near Paisley, Scotland, is known to be more than 700 years old, and there are eight olive trees on the Mount of Olives, near Jerusalem, which are known to have been flourishing in 1099. The yews at Fountains Abbey, Yorkshire, were old trees when in 1132 the abbey was built, and a redwood in Mariposa Grove, California, is a manifold centenarian. Baobab trees of Africa have been computed to be more than 5000 years old, and the deciduous cypress at Chapultepec is considered to be of a still greater age. Humboldt said that the *Dracaena Draco* at Orotava, on Teneriffe, was one of the oldest inhabitants of the earth.

The Cape of Good Hope.

An early navigator, Bartholomeu Diaz, commissioned by King John II. of Portugal to continue the work of African exploration down the west coast, sailed from Lisbon in August, 1486, with a small force and landed at several places, of which he took possession in the name of his master. As he approached the southern extremity of the continent he was blown out to sea by a tremendous storm and doubled the Cape without knowing it. Land was not again made until the mouth of the Great Fish River was sighted, and the ships came to anchor in Algoa Bay. A council held there decided to return home, and on the way back the Cape was discovered and christened by the commander, in remembrance of his first experience, Cabo Tormentoso, or Cabo des Todos les Tormentos; that is, Cape of All the Storms. When the discovery was reported to the king he immediately saw the immense possibilities of a new road to the Indies, and bestowed upon it the happier name of the Cape of Good Hope. By a singular corruption of its first title the Cape was long known to English seamen as the Cape of Torments, and the legend of the 'Flying Dutchman' was localised there by a misunderstanding of the experience of this Portuguese expedition.

Troublesome Insects.

Many insects produce a good deal of irritation, and even dangerous sores, by biting and burrowing in the human skin, without secreting any active poison (remarks Sir Ray Lankester in the *Daily Telegraph*). Often they introduce microscopic germs of disease in this way from one animal to another, as, for instance, do gnats, tsetse-flies, and horse-flies, and as do some small kinds of ticks or mites. The bites of the flea, of midgits, gnats; and bugs are comparatively harmless unless germs of disease are introduced by them, an exceptional occurrence. They may be treated with an application of carbolic acid dissolved in camphor. The pain caused by the acid stings of bees, wasps, ants, and nettles can be alleviated by dabbing the wound with weak ammonia (hartshorn). Insects which bury themselves in the skin, such as the jigger-flea of the West Indies and tropical Africa, should be dug out with a needle or fine blade. The minute creatures, like a cheese-mite, which burrow and breed in the skin of man and cause the affliction known as the itch, must be poisoned by sulphurated acid—a result achieved by rubbing the skin freely with sulphur ointment on two or three successive days. A serious pest in the summer in many parts of England is a little animal known as the harvest-man. These are the young of a small red spider-like creature, called *Trombidium*. They get on to the feet of persons walking in the grass, and crawl up the legs and burrow into the tender skin. Benzine will keep them away if applied to the ankles or stockings when they are about, and will also destroy them once they have effected a lodgment.

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