

Intercolonial

His Eminence Cardinal Moran laid the foundation-stone of a new church at Waitara on Sunday, November 22. The total cost of the building will be about £1400. The collection at the ceremony amounted to over £300.

A mendicant sentenced to 24 hours' gaol the other day by the Ballarat Bench produced credentials to prove he was Arthur Coleridge, physician and surgeon, and brother of the late Lord Chief Justice Coleridge of England.

Colonel Murray, Lieutenant-Governor of New Guinea, is a son of the late Sir Terence Aubrey Murray, and was educated at Oxford, where his brother Gilbert is now Professor of Greek. Before going to New Guinea he was Colonel of the Sydney Irish Rifles.

The Rev. J. J. Ferris, assistant to the Rev. T. O'Neill, of the Sacred Heart Church, Casterton (Victoria), died on November 23 at Casterton from heart failure. Father Ferris, who was 33 years of age, was born at Killarney, Ireland. He was first stationed at Ballarat, and from there he went to Casterton a few years ago.

The foundation-stone of the new convent being erected at Inverell, at a cost of £4000, was laid on Sunday, November 22, by the Right Rev. Dr. O'Connor (Bishop of Armidale). Father English (Inverell) and Father Colender (Bjngara) assisted. The weather was showery, and there was only a moderate attendance. £138 was placed on the stone. Of the £4000 required, £2000 is in hand, £500 having been contributed by the Sisters of the Inverell Convent and £500 by the Gunnedah Convent.

The death has taken place at Rockhampton of the Rev. Mother Mary Colomba Nugent, of the Order of Mercy. A native of Tipperary, Ireland, Mother Colomba was sister of the late Rev. Father Nugent, and of Mrs. Dalton, wife of Mr. T. T. Dalton, K.C.S.G., Consul for Spain, Sydney, and niece of the late Very Rev. Father Walsh, Townsville, and a relative of Mr. James Dalton, of Orange. Rev. Mother Colomba was about 43 years of age, and had been a member of the Sisters of Mercy for the past 24 years.

After some 20 years of strenuous and successful labors in the work of giving missions (writes the Melbourne correspondent of the *Freeman's Journal*), the Very Rev. M. J. Maher, C.M., has resigned the office of Provincial, and has been succeeded by the Very Rev. S. Hegarty, C.M. Father Maher is recognised as one of the ablest preachers in this State, and his invitations to the pulpit on important occasions have been numerous.

At the annual meeting of the supporters of St. Vincent's Hospital, Melbourne, on November 23, on which occasion the Governor-General and State Governor made speeches, the collection amounted to £666 in cash, whilst the promises brought the amount up to £3000. Lord Dudley, in moving the adoption of the report, said: 'I cannot conclude without saying with what especial pleasure it is that I find myself taking part in the proceedings of this hospital, because I am well acquainted with the parent hospital in Dublin, from which it has sprung; and my visit to the hospital the other day, going around it, and looking upon the kindly faces of the Mother Rectress and Sisters, brought back to my mind a very happy period of my life, when my lot was cast among the warm-hearted and attractive people of the Emerald Isle.'

His Eminence the Cardinal presided over the Diocesan Synod, which was held in the Chapter Hall at St. Mary's Cathedral on November 25. There were one hundred and thirty-eight priests present. This was the largest attendance ever recorded at a Diocesan Synod in Sydney. The Very Rev. P. Byrne, P.P., Burwood, was appointed by his Eminence the Cardinal as a member of the Diocesan Consultors of Advice to the position rendered vacant by the death of the Very Rev. Dean Slattery. The Diocesan Examiners for the ensuing year are the Very Rev. Fathers J. P. Moynagh, P.P., and H. McDermott (President of St. Patrick's College, Manly), who were named by his Eminence the Cardinal, and the Right Rev. Monsignor O'Brien and the Ven. Archpriest Sheehy, O.S.B., who were selected by the clergy.

Science Siftings

BY 'VOLT'

The Life of Trees.

Trees, like animals, eat, sleep, grow and die. Every one knows this, yet not every one is aware that trees tear their clothes and have to mend them; that they jostle one another like rude boys in a crowd, the strong overpowering the weak. Disease besets them. Accidents break their limbs. The varying weather checks their growth or coaxes them to flourish. Kin of the bear, they put on warm coats in winter and wait for spring. When the weather is warm a tree goes to sleep at sundown and in the morning wakes again. A cloudy sky makes the tree drowsy. Rain puts it to sleep. So the only days of prosperity and tree activity are the clear days. In sleep the leaves of many trees fold together and droop. The closing of the leaves checks the cooling process of evaporation, and maintains bodily heat. All young and tender foliage tends thus to curl up to sleep when the weather is bad or night is in the sky. Older and stiffer leaves go to sleep sitting up, just like grandfather in his arm chair. The breathing of the tree is as necessary as is the breathing of animals. All life consists of a continuous building up and tearing down of cells. The material for building new cells is made of food taken in and elaborated—made over—by intricate chemical processes. The oxygen in the air is one of the chemical ingredients both in destroying and building the cells of animals and trees. The leaves are the lungs, which inhale carbon dioxide and exhale pure oxygen.

The Forth Bridge.

The Forth bridge is a wonderful structure. It is a mile and a half long, and is the highest bridge in the world, being 450 feet from the base to highest point. The cantilever principle was adopted in its construction. Each cantilever consists of two brackets, the lower (in ordinary position) supporting the railway by compression, and the upper (inverted) by tension—the two being firmly interlaced and practically indestructible. The masonry piers upon which the cantilevers rest are founded at from 50 to 90 feet under water level, and vary in diameter from 70 feet at the bottom to 60 feet at the top. The depth of the water in the centre of the channel is 210 feet. The main piers of the cantilevers are of steel tubes, 12 feet in diameter, carried up to a height of 370 feet, whilst the rails are 160 feet above high-water level. The two main spans are each 1710 feet, with a span on either side between the cantilevers and the viaduct piers of 675 feet. The entire superstructure is of steel, 42,000 tons of which were used, while 12,000 tons of iron were used in the foundation, including 32 miles of bent plate for the tubes, the whole being welded together by eight million rivets. As the bridge has a metal surface of 120 acres, it took no less than 250 tons of paint and 35,000 gallons of oil to paint the work.

The Clothes Moth.

One of the most widely celebrated and anciently detested of insect pests is the clothes moth (writes Sir Ray Lankester in the *Daily Telegraph*). It is the caterpillar of this moth which is objectionable—biting off, eating, and using as a case the hair of furs and the fine filaments of woollen fabrics. Not everyone is able to recognise the clothes moth, which is a very small creature of a greyish-yellow color. The wings when set for flying measure only half an inch in expanse, and when the moth is walking or at rest, shut closely to the body so as to give it an almost cylindrical shape, with an attenuated snout. Much bigger moths occasionally get into our rooms, but do no harm. These little clothes moths lay their eggs on fur or wool, and the caterpillars which hatch from them do the damage. The moths themselves have no jaws and take no food. But the caterpillar or grub, though soft and readily crushed, has a pair of very hard, minute dark-colored jaws, with which it works away, cropping the fur and wool on which it lives. The moths are seen in houses commonly between January and October, and it is, of course, the object of the victimised householder to destroy them before they can lay eggs, or, what is more practical, to keep woollen and fur clothes away from their reach.