

Science Siftings

BY 'VOLT

A Dangerous Cargo.

Lime is one of the most dangerous of all cargoes for a vessel to carry. When it catches fire, as it frequently does, in spite of the greatest precautions against the admission of water into the hold, it is almost impossible to extinguish it. The only method that ever avails is to stop every crack with soap, so that no air can reach the lime. Sometimes this will stop the fire, but often these fires will burn for weeks, till the vessel sinks beneath the water, a mass of charred embers holding together.

Do Plants Breathe?

Respiration is a part of the life of all organisms, animal and vegetable. It is a series of chemical changes, the first of which is the absorption of oxygen into the body and the last of which is the exhalation of carbonic acid. Any organ adapted to this double work—the inhalation of oxygen and the exhalation of carbonic acid—is a lung, though of course the organ is much more rudimentary in the plant than in man. It is none the less true, however, that every living organism, whether plant or animal, breathes.

No Imitation Opal.

It is said that all the precious stones have been counterfeited, with more or less success, except the opal. That stone never has been and perhaps never will be counterfeited, for the reason that it is made up of innumerable facets so held together by cohesion as to refract the light like a prism. It is this quality that produces the well known iridescent effect. A few artificial opals have been obtained in the laboratory, but they seem to have been accidental, as repetitions of the experiment have not succeeded.

Ancient Locks.

Locks were used in the time of the Pharaohs. At Karnak the visitor is shown the sculptured representation of a lock which is almost exactly like the kind of lock used in Egypt at the present day. Homer says that Penelope used a brass key to open her wardrobe. He adds that it was very crooked and had an ivory handle. A Greek writer who lived in the last half of the twelfth century explains that such keys were undoubtedly very ancient, although still to be seen in Constantinople and elsewhere. Roman locks, like the Egyptian, required a partial sliding of the key. They were, however more intricate.

The Test of Hardness.

A good many people appear to think that resistance to a blow is a test of hardness in minerals, whereas it is resistance to erosion. Ignorance of this fact led a man not long ago to experiment on what appeared to be a large and unusually clear garnet of rather light red color. He took a hammer to it and smashed it to atoms. A diamond is the hardest substance in the world, yet it may be broken by a tap from a hammer or even a fall on the sidewalk, as it is apt to split along any of the cleavage lines, which are parallel to its faces. Experts test an undetermined gem first with a file and after with a fragment of stone of differing hardness. If it yields to the file, it is a glass or something no more durable than that.

Waterproofing Matches.

Perhaps some of your readers would be interested to know that I have found a simple, inexpensive way to waterproof matches (says a writer in the *Scientific American*). Into some melted paraffin (care being taken that it was as cool as possible) I dipped a few ordinary parlor matches. After withdrawing them and allowing them to cool it was found that they scratched almost as easily as before being coated with the wax. Several were held under water for six or seven hours and all of them lighted as easily as before immersion. When the match is scratched the paraffin is first rubbed and the match lights in the usual way. Matches treated as above would be very useful on camping or canoeing trips, as they do not absorb moisture. Since more rubbing is required to light them than the ordinary match, it would be practically impossible to set them on fire by accidental dropping.

You can lose your situation,
You can lose your rank or station,
You can lose your reputation,
You can even lose your wife!
But if this advice you follow
When your cough sounds harsh and hollow,
And Woods' Peppermint you swallow,
You will never lose your life.

Intercolonial

Our latest Australian exchanges report that the condition of the venerable Bishop of Maitland is causing considerable anxiety, and his medical attendants hold out very little hope of his recovery.

The death is reported of Major T. W. Faulkner, Cooma, who passed away in his 70th year. The deceased, who was a fervent Catholic, took an active and leading part in public affairs during his 35 years' connection with the district. Major Faulkner was a native of Mohill, County Leitrim, and came out to Australia in 1858. One of his daughters is Sister Mary Anthony, of the Brigidine Convent, Masterton.

At a meeting of citizens of Brisbane it was resolved, on the motion of Mr. Philp, 'That in recognition of the eminent public services of the late Mr. John Leahy, and in testimony of the desire of the people of Queensland that his life and character should remain as an example to future generations of Queenslanders, the meeting resolves that his memory be perpetuated by some form of public memorial.' The form which the memorial should take was left for decision to the committee which was subsequently appointed.

The late Rev. P. Huault, S.M., had only been a couple of days ill. He celebrated Mass as usual on Thursday at the Villa Maria Church, and he passed away at the Lewisham Hospital on the following Sunday. The interment, after a Requiem High Mass in the Villa Maria Church, took place on Tuesday at the new cemetery in the church grounds. The Right Rev. Dr. de Boismenu, M.S.H., Vicar-Apostolic of British New Guinea, presided at the Requiem Mass and also officiated at the graveside.

His Eminence Cardinal Moran, in commencing his address at the ceremony of laying the foundation-stone of a church at Haberfield a few Sundays ago, said: 'I would remind you that our fellow-citizens of the Anglican community are honoring the memory of their departed Primate to-day, and giving expression to their sorrow at his demise; and on your part, as on my own, and on the part of every Catholic of the archdiocese, I beg to tender to our Anglican fellow-citizens our sincere sympathy and condolence in their bereavement.'

The foundation-stone of a new church at Haberfield was laid on Sunday, April 25, by his Eminence Cardinal Moran. The contract price of the church is £1500. His Eminence, in responding to a vote of thanks for his presence, said that the church would be dedicated to the Blessed Joan of Arc, and would be the first so dedicated in Australia, if not in the world. She would give her blessings as she did to the banners of France. And that blessing would rest on all who defended the best interests of Australia—possibly not on its Dreadnought, but on all that stood for its progress, prosperity, and safety.

His Eminence Cardinal Moran, speaking at the laying of the foundation-stone of a church at Haberfield on Sunday, April 25, made reference to the united efforts of the Church of England and the Catholic Church in the fight in England over the education question in the cause of religion. He said that it presented a most cheering feature, which, he thought, was unique in history for England since the Reformation. He also made reference to the address presented by the Society of St. Thomas of Canterbury to the Pope on the occasion of his sacerdotal jubilee, in which many of the most enlightened members of the Anglican Church, including the Archbishop of Canterbury, expressed the hope that 'all things may be restored in Christ, and that there may be one fold and one Shepherd'—a prayer which went up, he was sure, from the heart of every Catholic in Australia.

His Eminence Cardinal Moran and Monsignor O'Haran had a very sensational experience in the city on Tuesday, April 27 (says the *Freeman's Journal*). His Eminence and secretary during the day visited St. Francis' Church, Haymarket, and at the termination of the visit his Eminence and Dr. O'Haran re-entered their carriage, and the coachman was directed to drive to St. Mary's Cathedral. The vehicle was driven up Commonwealth street without mishap, but when the carriage came to the Liverpool street crossing the trouble occurred. As the vehicle was crossing the street it was run into by a 'bus driver. The carriage was considerably broken up as a consequence of the impact, but his Eminence preserved his presence of mind, and escaped from the debris quite unhurt. Monsignor O'Haran also escaped uninjured. A cab was then hailed, and his Eminence proceeded to St. Mary's in the conveyance. It is the opinion of Monsignor O'Haran that the congestion of traffic in this locality, occasioned by the municipal works now going on there, may have been somewhat responsible for the accident.

DEAR ME!

Forgotten that SYMINGTON'S COFFEE ESSENCE! Whatever shall I do? Call at the nearest Store and ask. They all keep it.