

Science Siftings

BY VOLT

Electric Hair-growing.

At a recent sitting of the Academy of Medicine in Paris Professor Hallopean introduced a young man of 27 with a splendid crop of hair. The professor explained that 18 months ago the young man had been completely bald, but Dr. Chicotot had tried experiments on him, with astonishing success. The treatment consisted solely of the alternate use of X-rays and of electric high-frequency currents. Dr. Chicotot claimed no secrecy for his method, and had merely undertaken the experiment to show what wonders could be worked by electricity in cases of baldness.

Silent Aerial Warship.

Particulars of the new airship Zeppelin II., which is nearing completion, are now published. The Zeppelin I. will be polygonal in form, having 16 angles. It will be 446ft in length, and 42½ft in diameter, and will have a capacity of 530,000 cubic feet. It will be slightly larger and longer than the existing Zeppelin airship. There will be 17 compartments (balloonettes) instead of 16, one of them being covered, as an experiment, with gold-beater's skin, while the rest will be covered with lacquered cotton. Two, instead of three, winged screws will be used, thus, it is hoped, doing away almost completely with the present whirring noise. Hydrogen will be used, and the cost of filling the airship is expected to be about £75.

Something Interesting.

Some 20 years ago a man attended at an office in London for the purpose of witnessing an experiment by a German student in something new in gas lighting. He then saw some small cambric caps, the first five or six of which at once fell to pieces; while four or five lasted a little longer. The latter burnt for a few minutes, and then, on a door being opened, they followed in the wake of their predecessors. Little did those who were present at the experiments imagine that they were assisting at the rise of a planet, which would flood with light the whole universe. The German student was Welsbach, and the caps were the precursors of the mantle which have been of such benefit to the gas industry.

Power of the Tide.

Proposals to use the power of the tides are seldom taken seriously. That there is enormous power in them is admitted, but as no one has ever been able to run machinery with it save on a small scale the average man thinks no one ever will be able to utilise the power on a large scale. A similar view prevailed for a long time regarding the practicability of a rotary steam engine; but inventors kept at it, and now a turbine engine is driving steamships across the ocean at a greater speed than was ever before possible. In like manner someone will discover how to harness the tides and make them do his bidding. A group of men even now believe that they have the secret, for they are planning to dam the rivers which empty into the Bay of Fundy, and to place in the dams motors to be operated by the terrific rush of the waters that pour in and out of these streams every day. As the difference between low tide and high tide is 50ft or more along the bay, it is evident that the power developed is enormous.

The Panama Canal.

President Taft, in an article in *McClure's Magazine*, answers the critics of the Panama Canal. He declares that the lock type was the best type of canal to build, and he dares hope that it will be finished before 1915, and that the cost will fall below Colonel Goethal's latest estimate of £59,400,000. 'The date of completion for the lock type of canal has been fixed as January 1, 1915,' says Mr. Taft. 'I hope that it may be considerably before that. At the rate of excavation now going on in the Culebra cut, it could probably be completed in less than three years; but the difficulty is that as the cut grows deeper the number of shovels that can be worked must necessarily be decreased. Therefore, the excavation per day, per month, and per year must grow less. Hence it is not safe to base the time on a division of the total amount to be excavated by the yearly excavation at present. Then, too, the Gatun Dam and locks and the manufacture and adjustment of the gates may take a longer time than the excavation itself, so that it is wiser to count on the date set.'

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Intercolonial

The *Catholic Press* states that his Grace the Archbishop of Hobart is to preach the discourse at the opening of the Third Australasian Congress in St. Mary's Cathedral at the end of September next.

When Archdeacon Davy, of Benalla, died in January last year he expressed a wish that his remains should be buried in the new parish church, then in course of erection. His wish has been carried out, and his body now rests in a reinforced concrete vault in St. Joseph's, near the chancel.

The golden anchor of Faith (says the *Freeman's Journal*) was reburnished by the men of Woollahra on Sunday, June 27, when nearly three hundred attended Mass in a body and received Holy Communion at St. Joseph's Church. All the parochial societies were represented in full strength, supported by large numbers of parishioners in general.

At a public meeting held in Lismore it was decided that the most fitting memorial to Bishop Doyle would be to purchase for St. Carthage's Cathedral a peal of bells, to be called 'The Bishop Doyle Memorial Bells,' and that for this purpose a fund should be established; also that an annual prize, to be called 'The Bishop Doyle Memorial Prize,' be given to the Lismore Agricultural Society.

The Rev. Father J. Lane, Grenfell, died very suddenly on the morning of June 24. He passed away on the anniversary of his ordination 24 years ago. The deceased was a native of Castleisland, County Kerry, where he was born 49 years ago. Father Lane was educated at Carlow College. He held the post of Professor of Mathematics at St. Patrick's College, Goulburn, for five years, and many of his former pupils have since risen to prominent positions in Sydney and elsewhere.

On Thursday morning, June 24, the Hon. John Gavan Duffy, K.S.G. (chairman), Mr. M. Mornane (treasurer), and Dr. A. L. Kenny, K.S.G., Papal Chamberlain (hon. secretary), of the Archbishop's reception committee, waited on the Very Rev. Dean Phelan, V.G., at the Palace, Eastern Hill, for the purpose of presenting him with an illuminated address in recognition of his eminently successful administration of the Archdiocese of Melbourne during the 14 months' absence of his Grace the Archbishop in Europe. The presentation was made in the Archbishop's library, and the Archbishop himself was present.

Speaking at the opening of new St. Francis' Church, Haymarket, on Sunday, June 27, his Eminence Cardinal Moran said one of the first missions he attended after his arrival in Sydney, nearly 25 years ago, was at old St. Francis', the demolition of which had commenced. His Eminence remarked (says the *Catholic Press*) that when the foundation stone of the old building was laid there were only 181 places of Catholic worship in all New South Wales, and but 75 priests. Now there are more than 600 churches in the State, and in the archdiocese alone there are over 200 priests. There are over 400 priests in the entire State.

The late Bishop Doyle, of Lismore (says the *Freeman's Journal*), has only left 18d behind him. When the old Lismore church was burnt down on it was a debt of £500, which Dr. Doyle converted to a private debt of his own. Only a fortnight before his death a sum of £400 was paid to his credit, being the Easter and Christmas dues, and the Bishop gave the whole amount to the reduction of the parish building debt, as well as every month having contributed £3 to the parish fund. In his will, made sixteen years ago, the Bishop stated that whatever personal belongings he had, they were to be handed over to the parish fund. He always expressed a wish to die worth nothing, and that desire has been fulfilled.

The Rev. T. Barlow, Penrith (N.S.W.), celebrated recently his sacerdotal silver jubilee, when he was the recipient of several addresses and presentations. The jubilarian, who is an old college companion of the editor of the *N.Z. Tablet*, was entertained at a concert in the Convent School Hall on June 21 by the school children, and presented with a silver-mounted umbrella by the boys, an illuminated autograph album by the girls, and a silver cardstand by the Children of Mary. On the morning of June 23 Father Barlow was presented by the pupils of St. Mary's Convent School with an address and splendidly bound volume of the 'Music of Ireland.' On the following evening he was entertained at a conversazione in the Convent Schoolroom by the parishioners, when he was presented with an illuminated address and purse of sovereigns. There was a large attendance, among those present being several priests from other districts and members of other denominations. Several congratulatory and complimentary addresses were delivered, among the speakers being the Rev. J. McKee (Presbyterian).

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