

## Science Siftings

By 'VOLT.'

### How Fish are Drowned.

When a fish is taken out of the water, it is drowned by the air. The gills must be wet in order to extract the air, and as soon as they are taken out of the water, which keeps their numerous fringes apart, they collapse and become useless. It is worthy of notice that the swimming-bladder of the flying-fish is extremely large, so that when it is completely distended it fills up almost the entire abdomen. Beside this provision of nature for lightening the body, there is another in the form of a membranous reservoir within the mouth, which can be inflated through the gills.

### Red as a Warning Signal.

American scientists are questioning the value of red as a warning signal. According to the official organ of the American Medical Association, many human eyes are insensitive to red, and color blindness is apparently becoming more common. It has been experimentally demonstrated that yellow and blue are the only colors which give rise to normal color sensation as soon as they become visible, and that color-blind persons react normally to them; and it is suggested that these colors are the best danger signals.

### Stopping Trains Electrically.

Experiments have recently been made on the Bavarian State Railways with a method of stopping trains electrically. The system is referred to as one of wireless telegraph communication between a wire strung on the roof of the baggage car and any telegraph or telephone lines running along the track. Probably induction is used rather than Hertzian waves to convey the signal to the train. The apparatus operates either a bell or a light signal in the cab of the locomotive, or it will operate directly on the air brakes. The system calls for the installation of a sending station at frequent intervals, so that if it be desired to stop a train because of some accident, this may be effected from almost any point along the track.

### The First Lighthouse.

Ever since man began to navigate the waters he has endeavored to light them at night. The father of lighthouses, of course, was the ancient Pharos of Alexandria, in Egypt. It was built by Ptolemy Philadelphus, about 720 B.C., on a small island at the entrance to the harbor, connected by a causeway with the mainland. Mr. H. J. Shepstone, says:—'The Pharos cost 800 talents; if these were silver talents—as most likely they were—that would be equal to £170,000, the largest sum ever expended upon a single lighthouse. The structure had a base of some 400 feet, and towered 450 feet above sea level. As the whole was built of white marble, the edifice must have been at once elegant and impressive. At the summit, fires were kept burning to direct the mariner through the tortuous entrance to the bay. It is recorded by some of the ancients that the flame of the Pharos could be discerned 100 miles at sea. This, of course, is an exaggeration, as the most up-to-date light of modern times, with all the latest inventions for increasing its intensity, is only visible thirty miles out. It is doubtful if the smoky gleams of the ancient Pharos were seen twenty or twenty-five miles on a clear night. The Romans built many lighthouses, and it is said that several exceeded in splendor and magnificence the famous Pharos.' But there are none of them now, so we must take their reported excellence more or less on trust.

Do you know the awful agony of Rheumatism. If so, take courage; a simple, inexpensive, speedy remedy is available in RHEUMO. Thousands of Maorilanders have tried it, tested it, and proved that it cures those diseases which are due to excess uric acid in the blood. 2/6 and 4/6.

## Huntly

(From our own correspondent.)

January 24.

The advent of the Sisters of the Mission will mark a new era in educational matters in Huntly, and both Catholics and non-Catholics are eagerly awaiting the opening of the convent school, which takes place on February 2.

I have it on good authority that we are losing our worthy and highly respected pastor, Rev. Father Cahill. On coming to this district some eight years ago, Father Cahill took up his residence at Ngaruahia. He labored there for about five years, when the rapid growth of Huntly necessitated his removal here. Beloved by all, irrespective of creed, he will leave behind him a wide circle of friends. During his residence here he has seen the marked progress of this district, and I feel sure it must have been very pleasing to him to see the Catholic population of Huntly grow from a mere handful to numbers which will soon require the enlargement of our church.

The fortnightly meeting of St. Anthony's branch of the H.A.C.B. Society was held last Tuesday evening, the president (Bro. W. Darby) presiding. The half-yearly election of officers resulted as follows:—President, Bro. W. Darby; vice-president, Bro. T. McGill; secretary, Bro. T. Molloy; treasurer, Bro. F. Farrell; warden, Bro. M. F. McLeod; guardian, Bro. T. Edge; sick visitors, Bros. J. Banks and J. Dean; trustees, Rev. Father Cahill and Bros. J. Mohan and J. Robertson. Three candidates were proposed and one member admitted from the Auckland branch. A special meeting was called to arrange for extending a welcome to the Sisters of the Mission, who are expected here next week.

## Gisborne

(From our own correspondent.)

January 25.

The ladies' committees, appointed to make the arrangements for the bazaar to be held later in the year, are determined to make it the biggest of its kind ever attempted in Gisborne. Stallholders have been appointed, and the collectors, who are canvassing the district, are meeting with gratifying success in their mission. The Opera House, a new and up-to-date building, with its first-class orchestra, has been secured for the occasion.

The St. Patrick's Sports' Association have elected a strong committee to carry out the annual gathering. The prize money has been increased, and an even better result than that of last year may be anticipated.

Rev. Brother George, of the Marist Brothers' College, Auckland, has been in Gisborne during the vacation, and is the guest of Rev. Father Lane.

The Convent Schools, under the Sisters of St. Joseph, secured excellent results at the examination by the Inspector of the Hawke's Bay Education Board. The whole of the Sixth Standard pupils passed with credit, four pupils presented securing proficiency passes.

## CATTLE PASTURE

FOR SALE, 600 ACRES HEAVY CATTLE AND CROPPING LAND, 38 miles from Christchurch. £14 10s per acre, with all improvements. We can guarantee £6000 at 5 per cent. on this valuable farm.

DAIRY FARM, RANGIORA, 120 acres, in advance at 4½ per cent. First selection in the district. Price reduced. Also—

CHRISTCHURCH, RICCARTON, FENDALTON, and PAPANUI PROPERTIES.

Livery Stables, carrying Business and combined Store, Refreshment Rooms, and Bakery.

J. MEAGHER & CO., 155 Cashel Street, CHRISTCHURCH

## HOLMES BROS.

Reduces your Boot Bill by giving you the Utmost Value. Test us. We hold a Large Stock of the celebrated "MARLOW," "BOSTOCK," and Crockett Jones Boots. Note Address—TAY ST., INVERCARGILL.