

Science Siftings

By 'VOLT.'

Body Transparent.

A new method of giving medical students instruction which, it is said, will largely obviate the necessity of dissection, will be put into practice at the Hahmann Medical College, Philadelphia, at the beginning of the next term. Physicians and surgeons connected with the department of anatomy are now perfecting the process, which originates through the recent discovery by a French scientist of a fluid by the use of which the human body can be rendered transparent. The fluid, which is composed of several oils, turns the flesh into a sort of transparent jelly when injected, enabling the students to study the veins, muscles, and bones far better, it is asserted, than if they resorted to the dissecting knife. It is said to be one of the most valuable discoveries in medical science of late years.

Flies in Calcutta

One of the evils of Calcutta is the plague of green flies, from which the whole city suffers at certain times in the year. The happy hunting time of these minute insects is during late autumn and early winter. They are a serious nuisance both in and out of doors. They wing their way through all the open doors, into the houses, and into every room, making life unbearable. Like most insects, the little green flies have a great affection for the flame. On occasions the inhabitants have found it necessary to put out all the gaslights even at a public dinner, and to take their meals practically in deep gloom, illuminated only by flickering candles. Naturally, it is not at all pleasant to go on eating with dense clouds of insects swarming overhead, or, roasted to death, falling about one in pattering showers. They seem to spring into existence from nowhere; perhaps it is almost dusk, when the lights of the street lamps are becoming visible. Then, suddenly, the air, which a moment before was quite clear, is full of myriads of green flies, drifting in misty patches, and obscuring the street lamps. Often the number of insects which have been scorched to death is so great that little heaps of them collect inside the lamps, while bucket loads have to be swept up from the roads next morning.

A Wonderful Genius.

The discoverer of the law of universal gravitation among other things, Sir Isaac Newton, was born in Lincolnshire. At the age of 19, he went up to Cambridge, to Trinity, and at once plunged into mathematics. His first important discovery after graduation was fluxions, followed one year later by his discovery of gravitation; then came his well-known investigations into the nature of light, and the construction of telescopes. He found that rays of light which differ in color differ also in refrangibility. Each of his various discoveries took years to perfect. His theories respecting gravitation did not, for instance, fit in with available data bearing upon mainly the then known radius of the earth, which has been since proved to have been wrong, a factor which in the earlier day considerably perplexed the Lucasian Professor at Cambridge, and compelled him for the time being to drop his investigations. It was some years later when he took it up again, and then it became known to Halley that Newton was in possession of the whole theory and its demonstration. Halley begged of him to make public that which he had been able to prove at last, and in a short time there came from the printing press *De Motu Corporum*, followed later, on a more extended scale, by *Philosophiæ Naturalis Principia Mathematica*. Newton was a principal in two famous disputes—with Leibnitz and with Flamsteed. Sir Isaac discovered the differential calculus; Leibnitz seized it and improved upon it, claiming full honors. With Flamsteed the discussion, which was upon another matter, ended in mutual recrimination.

Intercolonial

On November 23 a number of ladies met at St. Martha's Industrial Home, Leichhardt, the object of the gathering being to present Rev. Mother with a cheque for £660, the proceeds of the recent fete and sale of work. Mrs. Barlow made the presentation. The Very Rev. Dr. McDermott, P.P., on behalf of the nuns, thanked the committee for their zealous and practical interest in the institution. Afternoon tea was served in the reception hall.

Another Acting-District Court Judge in New South Wales has been appointed in the person of Mr. Andrew Robert James Watt, who for years past has been following a very varied practice at the Bar. Mr. Watt, who is a Catholic, is the son of the late Mr. Alexander Watt, well known in the Newcastle district. He was educated at St. Joseph's College, Hunter's Hill, and subsequently graduated at the Sydney University, with the degrees of B.A. and LL.B., with honors.

Mr. Justice Duffy, of the High Court Bench, has (says the *Catholic Press*) received intelligence that his son, Lieutenant Desmond Gavan Duffy, has been killed in France. The deceased was educated at St. Ignatius' College, Riverview, and graduated at the Melbourne University. He was called to the Victorian Bar in December, 1913, and was admitted as a member of the New South Wales Bar in May of the following year. For some time prior to going to the war he acted as associate to his father in the High Court. He had not attained his 30th birthday. His brother, Major Gavan Duffy, is fighting in France. Shortly after the commencement of the war Mr. Justice Rich, of the High Court, had a son killed in action, and two sons of the late Mr. Justice O'Connor, also of the High Court Judiciary, have been killed at the front. With regard to the State judges, Mr. Justice Stimpson (Chief Judge in Equity), Mr. Justice Street, and Mr. Justice Ferguson, have each lost a son.

The Archbishop of Perth, the Most Rev. Dr. Clune, who has been commissioned by the Commonwealth Government to visit England and prepare a report upon the camps and hospitals where Australian troops are stationed, is now staying at the Jermyn Court Hotel, Jermyn street (says the *London Tablet*). The Archbishop, who has the rank and title of colonel, will also visit the Commonwealth troops in France and Egypt, and send a report to the Defence Department as to the working of the chaplains' department as far as it concerns the Catholic troops. Although he arrived in London only a few days ago, the Archbishop has already visited many of the larger hospitals, including those at Harefield, Denmark Hill, and Dartford, and everywhere has been struck by the wonderful courage and cheerfulness of the wounded men, and the uniform excellence of the accommodation provided. A visit to Salisbury Plain, where he was the guest of General Sir Newton Moore, enabled him to inspect the fine body of Australian troops now in training there. He hopes to complete his work in England in about three weeks, and then to cross over to France, whence he will proceed to Egypt, taking Rome on his way. So far the Archbishop is well pleased with all he has seen, and in the hospitals has met many old friends, who were at once surprised and delighted to see him. The ship which took him to England had 1100 soldiers on board, of whom 219 were Catholics. On the last Sunday of the voyage the men begged for a Missa Cantata to celebrate the occasion. Accordingly it was arranged that while a Low Mass should be said at the usual hour—6.30—there should be a Missa Cantata at 10.30. At the first Mass there were 182 communicants, and at the later hour Webb's Mass was sung, the soldiers' choir being admirably led by Lieutenant Master. At the end of the Mass the Archbishop gave Confirmation to 13 candidates, whom he had prepared during the voyage. It only remains to add that there are now 45 Catholic chaplains with the Australian contingents.

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