

Science Siftings

BY 'VOLT'

How Plants Breathe.

Most people do not know that a plant has lungs, but it has, and its lungs are in its leaves. Examined through a high-power microscope, every leaf will show thousands of openings, infinitely small, of course, but each provided with lips, which, in many species, are continually opening and closing.

Fireworks.

Fireworks originated in the thirteenth century, along with the evolution of powder and cannon. They were first employed by the Florentines, and later the use of fireworks became popular in Rome at the creation of the Popes. The first fireworks, which resemble those which we see nowadays, were manufactured by Torre, an Italian artist, and displayed in Paris in 1764.

Supposed Canals on Mars.

E. W. Maunder, superintendent of the Solar Department of the Royal Observatory at Greenwich, says of the so-called Martian canal theory: 'Nobody has ever seen a single canal on Mars. There has never been any real ground for supposing that the markings on the planet supplied any evidence of artificial action. It were better for science that the canal theory be abandoned completely.'

The Power of a Toadstool.

Some years ago the main streets of Basingstoke were paved with large stones, and a few months later the pavement showed an unevenness which could not easily be accounted for at first. The mystery was soon explained, for some of the heaviest stones, weighing over 80lb, were completely lifted out of their bed of cement by the growth of large toadstools below them, and it became necessary to repave the town.

The Development of Motor Traffic.

The development of motor traffic in recent years has undoubtedly been startling. The Royal Automobile Club has been collecting statistics, by which it appears that the total number of motor vehicles registered in Great Britain and Ireland at the end of September was 183,773, as compared with 154,415 at the corresponding date of last year. This is certainly a striking increase; but the horse has not yet disappeared. Of the cars registered 7499 belonged to Ireland, 13,093 to Scotland, and 163,187 to England, of which less than one-fiftieth were registered in London. When steam traffic was first introduced into England a great many years ago, it was prophesied that in another generation the horse would be practically extinct as a 'motive power.' Several generations have passed away since then, but the horse-drawn cart is still familiar. There can be no doubt, however, that the use of the motor is increasing rapidly, as the statistics of the Automobile Club show.

The Life History of the Mosquito.

It is only the female mosquito which sucks blood. Dr. Patrick Monson tells us that after she has filled herself with blood she seeks out some spot near stagnant water. At the end of about six days she quits her shelter, and, alighting on the surface of the water, deposits her eggs thereon. The eggs float about for a time, and then give birth to tiny swimming larvæ. These larvæ grow apace, casting their skins several times to admit of growth. Later they pass into the nymph stage, during which, after a time, they float on the surface of the water. Finally, the shell of the nymph cracks along its dorsal surface, and a young mosquito emerges. Standing as on a raft, on the empty pelt, the young mosquito floats on the surface of the water while its wings are drying and acquiring rigidity. When this is complete it flies away. The young mosquito larvæ, to satisfy their prodigious appetites, devour everything eatable they come across; and one of the first things they eat if they get the chance is the dead body of their parent, now soft and sodden from decomposition and long immersion. They even devour their own cast-off skins.

R. R. R. R.

Four "R's" easily remembered mean a good deal to many sufferers, for they represent in an abbreviated form a great truth: "RHEUMO rapidly relieves Rheumatism." Here you have in a single sentence all that need be told of RHEUMO; the rest must be left to your experience after a trial. RHEUMO is a medicine which, if taken in the manner prescribed, every dose will be found to afford relief, killing the pain, removing the swelling, and eliminating the excess uric acid—the cause of the trouble. RHEUMO is the best solvent of uric acid and phosphatic sediment. RHEUMO conquers Rheumatism, Gout, Lumbago, and Sciatica. Sold by all chemists and storekeepers at 2s 6d and 4s 6d per bottle.

'Catholic Marriages.' The book of the hour. Single copies, 1s posted. Apply Manager, *Tablet*, Dunedin.

Intercolonial

The Very Rev. Father Walsh, Provincial of the Irish Province of the Vincentians, is at present visiting the houses of the Order in Australia.

Very Rev. Father D. J. O'Sullivan, of the Society of African Missions, is at present in Australia.

The Very Rev. Father J. O'Dwyer, V.G., of the Goulburn diocese, passed away at Tumut on March 21, aged 62 years, of which 37 were spent in Australia. During the past 15 years he was parish priest of Tumut.

The bunches of shamrock worn by Lord Dudley and suite at St. Patrick's Night concert (says the *Catholic Press*) were the gifts of the Cardinal. They came all the way from Ossory, his Eminence's old diocese.

On the evening of March 17 the Mechanics' Institute, Branxton, was thronged beyond its capacity by a large concourse of people, representing Muswellbrook, Wollombi, Cessnock, Greta, and surrounding districts, to take part in a presentation and send-off concert to the Rev. Father Rogers, who is about to leave Australia for a trip to Ireland, where he will spend a well-earned holiday. The presentation consisted of an illuminated address, a purse of sovereigns, and several useful articles.

At the luncheon at which the Cardinal entertained a number of priests and laymen at St. Mary's presbytery, after the High Mass, on St. Patrick's Day (says the *Catholic Press*), his Eminence presented Messrs. L. Cotter, R. H. Arnott, and M. J. Candrick with handsome gold watches, as some recognition of their work as assistant secretaries of the Catholic Congress, and the other movements connected with St. Mary's Cathedral. Each was associated in a secretarial capacity with the St. Patrick's Day celebrations.

The national concert held in the Town Hall, Melbourne, on St. Patrick's Night attracted a large attendance. Amongst those present were his Grace Archbishop of Melbourne, who made some references to English and Irish politics, and the prospects of Home Rule for Ireland, the State Governor (Sir Thomas Gibson Carmichael), Mr. Justice O'Connor, Mr. Justice Higgins, and the State Premier (Mr. Murray). The Governor expressed his pleasure at being present, and said many of the things that he treasured most in his inmost thoughts were connected with Irish people. On Saturday there was a procession to the Exhibition Grounds, where the sports were held in the presence of a huge and enthusiastic gathering of spectators. The Governor and the Archbishop were again present. The Premier of Victoria and the Attorney-General were also in attendance.

At the High Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral, Sydney, on St. Patrick's Day the panegyric of the Apostle of Ireland was preached by his Grace the Coadjutor-Archbishop. Upwards of 30,000 persons visited the St. Patrick's Day Industrial Exhibition, opened at the Agricultural Grounds on Thursday afternoon, March 17, and closed on Saturday, at the conclusion of the sports carnival. For competition alone 1500 articles, divided into 104 sections, were exhibited. The exhibition was opened by his Eminence Cardinal Moran, who congratulated the schools on the singular progress which was made in music and industrial work during the past year. The national concert in the Town Hall on St. Patrick's Night was a great success. There was a crowded attendance. His Excellency the Governor-General, Lord Dudley, and suite, and his Eminence Cardinal Moran were present. His Grace Archbishop Kelly and a large gathering of the clergy also attended.

In the course of his address at the opening of the St. Patrick's Day Industrial Exhibition at the Agricultural Grounds, Sydney, his Eminence Cardinal Moran said that every day they read in the press that Home Rule for Ireland was supposed to be equivalent to disloyalty to the Empire. He now, openly, fully, and in the most distinct way, repudiated all such statements, and wished once for all to let it be known that no disruption of the Empire was contemplated by the granting of Home Rule. As an illustration Australia might be cited. There was no country in the world more loyal to the Crown than Australia. Australia's loyalty was caused because she was allowed to manage her own affairs. In advocating Home Rule for Ireland, they only asked the same measure of managing their own affairs. That was as it should be. The accusations uttered every day against the granting of Home Rule were made with an intense malignity and lying misrepresentation which showed the wicked source from which they came.

In summer, when the hat is out,
A good catch is the ball;
Well stopped! we hear the people shout;
Well stopped! cry one and all.
In winter when bleak winds endure
A bad catch is a cold;
Well stopped! with Woods' Great Peppermint Cure!
Well stopped! cry young and old.

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