

Science Siftings

By 'VOLT.'

Largest Mammoth Skeleton.

The skeleton of the largest mammoth so far known to the scientific world has just been unearthed at Steinheim, Germany, near the birthplace of the poet Schiller. According to advices received, it will go to the Wurtemberg Natural History Museum at Stuttgart. The skeleton is over 17 feet high, and the tusks are more than 8 feet long. It is thought to be about 4000 years old.

Art of Papermaking.

In the matter of making and using paper we are not in line with the Chinese and other Asiatics, who not only make the finest paper in the world, but apply it to all sorts of uses, making window panes, fans, umbrellas, sandals, and even cloaks and other garments of it. The art of making paper from mulberry bast is said to have been invented in China in the second century B.C. Afterward bamboo shoots, straw, grass, and other materials were also used. The manufacture spread to the adjacent countries. The Arabs learned it in Samerkand, and there learned men carefully kept secret the process by which they made paper for their own use. The Crusades made Europe acquainted with the art, and the first paper mill in Germany dates from the twelfth century.

Typewriting Work Heavy.

The girl who is operating a typewriter doesn't appear to be doing very heavy physical labor, as compared with the brawny individual in a stokehold who is shovelling coal into a hungry furnace, but this is one of the many instances in which superficial appearances are deceptive, as a comparison of the force expended by the two will show. The stoker may be credited with handling one ton of coal per hour, or eight tons per day, plus the weight of his shovel. Adding the shovel to his 17,960 pounds of coal, he expends about 20,000 pounds of energy. For each key struck on the typewriter there is an expenditure of something over three ounces of energy, or say, one pound to the average word. A fair operator will average 500 words an hour, or, in eight hours, 12,000 words—12,000 pounds of energy. To throw over the carriage for each new line requires on an average three pounds of force. Twelve thousand words will make 1000 lines, so that there are 3000 pounds of energy to be added to the 12,000, making it 15,000 pounds of energy expended—which compares pretty well with the stoker's 20,000, all things considered. A really fast operator would push the expenditure of energy up to 25,000 or more.

Petrol and Electricity in Place of Steam.

The Great Western Railway authorities of England are the first to experiment with the view of substituting petrol and electricity for steam. They have decided that if the petrol-electric engine is more economical than the steam engine upon steep gradients and in services where the passenger traffic is light, then they, as the largest users of rail motor cars in the United Kingdom, stand to benefit. They have, accordingly, installed upon the Windsor branch for temporary service between Slough and Windsor an experimental coach, the first of its kind to be used in England, which is entirely independent of steam power and external auxiliaries. The car is now in regular service. It is fitted with a forty-horse-power petrol engine, which transmits its power through an electric motor of similar capacity. Accommodation is provided for forty-six passengers, and a maximum speed of nearly thirty-five mile per hour, with an average of twenty miles per hour, can be obtained with ease. The petrol-electric combination insures absolute smoothness of running and a minimum of strain upon the gearing when starting and stopping. If the system proves successful, it will be applied to the whole Great Western system.

Intercolonial

On Sunday afternoon, May 19, his Grace the Archbishop of Melbourne blessed the foundation stone of an addition to the Carmelite Church, Middle Park.

Victoria has in hand a huge scheme. It is intended to electrify her suburban railways at a cost of £2,000,000. Tenders have been called in England.

The Very Rev. Father P. Griffith, Provincial of the Redemptorists in Ireland, who had been visiting the houses of the Order in Australasia, has left for Europe.

Catholic primary schools are being erected in every centre of Catholic population in Melbourne. The Right Rev. Mgr. Phelan, V.G., recently blessed and opened a new brick school at the favorite watering-place, Sandringham.

His Grace Archbishop Duhig presided at a meeting of the senior priests of the diocese of Rockhampton on May 9, convened for the purpose of selecting three names to be submitted to the Holy See in connection with the appointment of a successor to the vacant See.

The Irish envoys, Messrs. Redmond and Donovan, spoke to a crowded house here on the evening of May 10 (writes the Lismore correspondent of the *Freeman's Journal*). Both local papers give condensed reports of the speeches. They also state that £200 were collected, but the *Freeman's* correspondent desires to say that £300 would be nearer the mark, and that by the time they have visited all centres on the Richmond and Tweed they will have collected pretty well £1000. A member of the municipal council presided, and his Lordship Bishop Carroll was among those present.

The new Parliament (writes the Brisbane correspondent of the *Catholic Press*) furnishes an instance of father and son sitting on the same side of the House. E. B. Corser, who, thanks to a useful lift from his absentee voting friends, managed to scrape in for Maryborough by four votes, has the satisfaction of seeing his son, Bernard Corser, returned for the Burnett. The latter is an ex-student of Nudgee College. The college has three of its old boys in the new Assembly in the persons of H. D. Macrossan, E. J. Breslin, and B. Corser.

The late Mr. John Griffith, of Ballarat, retired miner, who died on April 3 last, left by will dated June 29, 1911, personal estate valued at £2500 to relatives, subject to the following bequests:—£200 to the Bishop of Ballarat, for the erection of an altar in the Chapel of the Blessed Virgin, St. Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat; £200 to the Bishop of Ballarat, for the advancement of primary education; £100 to the Sisters of Mercy, Ballarat East; £100 to the Sisters of Nazareth, Nazareth House; and £50 to the sick and infirm priests' fund.

The mantle of grief enshrouded St. Patrick's parish (Church hill) during the week (says the *Freeman's Journal* of May 16), when with impressive ceremonies the remains of its late pastor, the Very Rev. A. Ginisty, S.M., were laid to rest in the picturesque grounds of Villa Maria, the burial grounds of the Marist Fathers. As mentioned in our last issue, the death of Father Ginisty took place at St. Vincent's Private Hospital on May 8. The remains were conveyed to St. Patrick's Church the same evening, and upon being placed upon the sanctuary Chopin's 'Dead March' was played by the church organist. They lay in state all day on Thursday, and were viewed by thousands, and on Friday a Solemn Requiem Mass was celebrated, at which a crowded congregation assisted. As the funeral left the church the streets in the vicinity were crowded with people, and a large posse of police was requisitioned to control the traffic. A procession, preceded by the cross-bearer and acolytes, was formed, in which were the priests, members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, A.H.C. Guild, H.A.C.B. Society, Irish National Foresters, Children of Mary, the school children, and members of St. Patrick's Old Boys' Union.

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