

by Professor Charles Robin and M. Laboulere in 1873, who have confirmed Dr. Phipson's discovery in examining certain exotic insects which are luminous at night. In our climate many of the lower classes of animals exhibit the phenomenon of phosphorescence; we have several species of luminous insects, including the well-known glowworm, *Lampyrus noctiluca*; the luminous centipede, *Scolopendra electra* shines in September, and the common earthworm is often phosphorescent in October; it is the wonderful little *Noctiluca miliaris*, scarcely visible to the naked eye, which causes the phosphorescence of the sea in the English Channel. Dr. Phipson has shown that in all these cases the light is owed to a peculiar chemical principle, which he has called *Noctilucine*, and which has the property of shining in the dark, like phosphorus, after it is extracted from one of the above-mentioned animals. Noctilucine is a fluid organic substance containing nitrogen, and in luminous animals it is produced by a special organ as fast as the animal requires it.

THE GROVES OF MOROCCO.—The groves of rose-trees and the flour farms of Morocco are said by a recent traveller to exceed in extent and value those of Damascus, or even those of the Valley of Mexico. The general climate of the country is very favourable to this kind of culture. Swept alternately by the breezes of the Atlantic and the Mediterranean, and tempered by the snows of the Atlas ranges, the degree of heat in Morocco is much lower than in Algeria, while the soil is exceedingly fertile. To the date, palm, and to orange and lemon trees, the climate appears to be especially suited, the dates of Tafila having been famous even from Roman times. The orange plantations are of great extent in various parts of the country, while olives and almonds are also staples imported in large quantities. Seeing that this fertile land, lying within five days' steam of London, produces so much regtable wealth under the most barbarous cultivation, it appears extraordinary that European enterprise does not, in such a climate, seek profitable employment for its over-abundant capital in its application to the development of such vast resources, so close at hand, instead of going so far afield as Australia or America.

FIGHTING EDITORS.—A Western editor has put into practice a plan which will enable all papers to dispense with the usual members of the staff. One morning he was waited upon by the biggest kind of a fellow armed with a terrible cudgel, with several and sundry protuberances sticking out all round, marvellously resembling Colt's derringers and bowie, who saluted him with: "Where's that scoundrel, the editor?" Our friend said: "He is not about, but please take a seat and amuse yourself with a paper." Accordingly up he went, like a high pressure steam-engine, letting off steam at every step. Our friend waited a minute and such a cash—as if all pandemonium was let loose. What the result was, was never known, as our friend did not wait.

Life is a combat and not an unlimited liberty of enjoyment; life consists in abstaining more than enjoying; life is the struggles of the divine element, which would fain reconquer his place. Glorious struggle, which founds peace and liberty upon the ruins of bad inclinations and degraded instincts!—*Mgr Landriot.*

It was a maxim of Bishop Grant's that a child's education should begin in the cradle. Once noticing a nurse making a tiny creature beat the "naughty" table that had hurt him when he knocked against it he explained to her how wrong it was thus to implant the idea of revenge in a baby's mind, bringing it up like a little pagan instead of making it kiss whatever hurt it in the spirit of Christian forgiveness.

I have searched for happiness in the elegant life of the drawing-room, in sumptuous banquets, and the dissipation of balls and theatres. I have taken part in every festival. I sought for it also in the possession of gold, in the excitement of gaming, in the illusions of marvellous romances, but in vain. While one hour spent in visiting a sick person, in helping an unfortunate man, has sufficed to procure me an enjoyment more delicious than all worldly delights.—*A Young Man, quoted by P. Felix*

THE POPULATION OF AUSTRIA.—The Austrian Statistical Commission has just published a report on the population, etc., of Austria, exclusive of Hungary, in the year 1874. From this report it appears that the population is 20,970,000. The male population has increased since 1869 from 9,810,000 to 10,200,000; and the female population from 10,400,000 to 10,770,000. The increase per square (German) mile is 138. The number of marriages since 1869, was 201,787; in 1872, 193,836. The first civil marriage took place in 1870, when there were nine such marriages. The diminution in the number of marriages is accounted for by the bad harvests, so that this year a considerable increase is expected.

Can one prevent oneself from contemplating with delight the happiness of the man who can say to himself every night before going to rest, I have not wasted this day; who sees no heinous passion, no guilty desire in his heart, he sleeps with the certainty of having done some good deed, and who awakes with the renewed vigor to become still better.—*J. de Maistre.*

HOW TO TURN A BULL.—David, a Yorkshire musician, was one day returning home through a pasture in which was a bull, who seeing David with his red bag, made at him bellowing loudly with evidently hostile intention. The musician did not fly, it would have been undignified, and the bass viol that he carried might be injured by a precipitate retreat over the hedge. The bull came on with lowered horns. "Steady!" soliloquised the musician. "I reckon that was double B natural." Again the bull bellowed. "I am pretty sure it was B," said David again, "but I'll make sure," and opening the bag he took out the bass viol, and drawing the bow across the string, produced a sound as full of volume and of the same pitch as the tone of the angry beast. "I thought I were meet," said David, with a grim smile. At the sound of the bass viol the bull stood still, raised his head, and looked at the strange object before him. David thought it a pity to bag his violin without a tune, and began the violinello part in one of Handel's choruses. It was too much for the bull—he turned tail.

IMPROVING PLANTS BY PINCHING AND PRUNING.—"How shall I grow my plants compact and symmetrical in form?" is a question

frequently asked by amateur florists. It is a simple matter, and is accomplished by judicious pinching and cutting. In nearly all kinds of flowering plants, excepting those grown from bulbs, also in trees and shrubs, buds are formed at the axis of the leaves along the stem of branches, while the growth proceeds from its termination. This, in perennials, if not checked continues to grow, and usually causes a tall or unshapely form, but by cutting off at the point, or pinching out the terminal, new shoots start out at the leaf-joints below the cut, or, if already started, commence to grow with increased vigor, and will, in due time, result in a better-shaped or more bushy plant or branch. Pinching or pinching should be more generally resorted to than it is, for, by observing the principle of growth just alluded to, and varying the pinching to the habit of the kind, it is just as easy to have your plants, either in the house, conservatory or garden, of fine form, as to have them otherwise, and they are so much more rewarding and agreeable to work among. Little danger exists of cutting away too much; persons who resort to pinching frequently err in cutting too little. Old plants with long, leafless branches may be entirely reshaped by severe pinching.

THE NEW CARDINALS.—Cardinal MacCloskey has left Paris on his way to Rome, where he will receive his "title" and ring at the approaching Consistory. The other Cardinals who are to be proclaimed on that occasion are stated to be Mgrs. Antici Mattei, Vitelleschi, Simeoni, Pacea, Randi, and Brossays-St. Marc, Archbishop of Rennes. The first five are those who were, it will be remembered, reserved *in pectore* on the 15th of March last, and the Archbishop of Rennes will fill the vacancy in the usual number of French Cardinals caused by the subsequent death of Cardinal Mathieu, Archbishop of Besançon. Mgrs. Brossays-St. Marc and Pacea have received the official intimation of their elevation.

MISSING FRIENDS.

INFORMATION wanted of Mrs. MARY CULITY, maiden name Mary Lyons, who left London in 1865, for Auckland, N.Z. When last heard of she was living in Auckland (about a year since), in which city her husband died. Any information concerning her, by which her present address may be traced, will be thankfully received if forwarded to this office; or to Mr. Patrick O'Brien, No. 2, Chapman place, Charleston street, Charleston, Massachusetts, United States.

INFORMATION wanted of Mrs. MARY JONSON, maiden name Mary Wadden, native of Condross, Parish of Durrah, Lower Ormand, County Tipperary, Ireland. Any information concerning her will be thankfully received by Mrs. Sherlock, Westport. Letters from home await her.

WANTED, a Teacher for the Catholic School, Cromwell. Apply to Rev. Father Kehoe.

WANTED.—A Teacher is required for the Catholic School, St. Bathans. Either male or female. For particulars and terms, apply to Fred. J. Bunny, Secretary.

HIBERNIAN AUSTRALASIAN CATHOLIC BENEFIT SOCIETY.

(Registered under the Friendly Societies Act of Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland, New Zealand, and South Australia), and at present

NUMBERING ONE HUNDRED AND TEN BRANCHES, AND ABOUT FIVE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED MEMBERS.

CLEARANCES ARE GRANTED AT NO EXTRA CHARGES TO MEMBERS

THE SOCIETY IS FOUNDED UPON THE FINANCIAL BASIS OF OTHER BENEFIT SOCIETIES.

THE ENTRANCE FEES AND RATES OF SUBSCRIPTION Will be found to compare favorably with those CHARGED BY OTHER SOCIETIES,

And are as Moderate as practicable, having due regard to the benefits secured, a synopsis of which is subjoined:—

A Benefit Member receives during illness £1 per week for twenty-six consecutive weeks, 15s for the next thirteen weeks, and 10s for further period of thirteen weeks; on death of wife £10, at his own death his relatives receive £20. He has medical attendance and medicine for himself and family immediately on joining. If a single man with a widowed mother, and brothers and sisters (under 18 years of age), he has medical attendance and medicine for them. A Member removing can have a clearance which will admit him into any branch of the Society in the locality to which he may remove. Honorary and Life Honorary Members are provided for, and may, on payment of a small weekly contribution, secure medical attendance. The Society is also for the purpose (as its name indicates) of cherishing the memory of Ireland, and promoting the religious, social, and intellectual condition of the members. Any person desirous of having a branch opened shall make application to a branch, verified by signatures of not less than twelve persons not members, who wish to become members thereof; also the signature of the resident Priest, if available, and at the same time forward the sum of 10s each as proposition fees.

Branches are established at Invercargill, Lawrence, Dunedin, Naseby, Oamaru, Christchurch, Greymouth, Charleston, Addisons, Brighton, Greenstone, Waimea, Hokitika, Wellington, Reefton, Onehunga, Otahuhu, Auckland, Napier, Akaroa, Lyttelton, Grahamstown and Nelson.