

## Science Siftings

By 'Volt'

### Timber for Paper.

Canada has forests which, at the present rate of consumption of timber for paper, would supply the world with paper pulp for 840 years.

### A Natural Sun-dial.

There is a promontory in the Aegean Sea which is the largest sun-dial on this planet. It is known as Hayon Horoo, and extends 3000ft above the level of the water. As the sun swings round, the shadow of the mountain touches one by one a circle of islands separated by regular intervals, which act as hour marks.

### Tides in Inland Seas.

Small inland seas have tides which follow the moon with even more precision than the open ocean. The water in a lake 'rocks' as though it were a solid mass, but slowly, the surface changing its level as the meridian of the lake alters its direction with regard to the moon. It requires, however, minute observation to detect this tide.

### A Large Orchard.

Americans claim that the largest orchard in the world is in Missouri. It is the great Winans Orchard, near Marshfield, in Webster County. There are 86,000 apple trees, 40,000 peach trees, and 10,000 pear trees, now at proper bearing age. The acreage covered is 1240 and it is estimated that the orchard is now worth 12s a tree, or £81,600.

### Gibraltar Crumbling Away.

It is not generally known that the great rock of Gibraltar is tumbling down—that its crumbling, rotting masses must be continually bound together with huge patches of masonry and cement. Yet they who sail past Gibraltar cannot fail to notice on the Eastern slope of the fortress enormous silver-colored patches gleaming in the sun. These patches, in some cases 30 or 40 feet square, are the proof of Gibraltar's disintegration. Of thick, strong cement, they keep huge spurs of the cliff's side from tumbling into the blue sea. Sea captains cruising in the Mediterranean say that Gibraltar has been rotting and crumbling for many years, but that of late the disintegration has gone on at a faster rate than heretofore. They say that the stone forming this imposing cliff is rotten stone, and that in a little while the phrase 'the strength of Gibraltar' will be meaningless.

### Acetylene Lighting.

Acetylene lighting is quietly gaining favor, and the German Acetylene Association finds that the gas is supplied the public by 75 places in Germany, 202 in the United States, 16 in the United Kingdom, and 19 in the British colonies, while Germany alone has 75,000 private installations.

### Peculiar Habits of Fishes.

A peculiarity of nearly or quite all of the fishes allied to the celebrated 'climbing perch' (*Anabas scandens*) is that they place their eggs in nests or floats of bubbles. These fishes are all brilliantly colored, and all are natives of the Indo-Malayan rivers except one African species. Among the species making these nests are the gourami, renowned for its excellent flesh, the paradise fish, and the fighting-fish, the last so-called on account of a domesticated breed kept by the Siamese for fighting. Specimens of the two latter recently studied by an English naturalist have built their bubble-rafts, of dome shape, in an aquarium. The paradise fish gradually increases the layers of bubbles—which are blown by the male—until the eggs are raised above the water and are so hatched.

Judge Mathew, who recently retired from the English Appeal Bench, is a grand-nephew of Father Theobald Mathew, the famous temperance apostle. The Judge has a brother in the Jesuit Order.

MYERS & CO., Dentists, Octagon, corner of George Street. They guarantee the highest class of work at moderate fees. Their artificial teeth give general satisfaction, and the fact of them supplying a temporary denture while the gums are healing does away with the inconvenience of being months without teeth. They manufacture a single artificial tooth for Ten Shillings, and sets equally moderate. The administration of nitrous oxide gas is also a great boon to those needing the extraction of a tooth.

## The Home

By 'Maureen'

### Wedding Presents.

The wedding present pest is every year assuming larger proportions and becoming harder to cope with. It is the cause of innumerable heartburnings, ill-feelings, jealousies, debts, and kindred other evils among friends and acquaintances where each is trying to go one better and outdo the other in the quantity and quality of gifts, regardless of consequences. The custom is also regarded as responsible for the production of such articles as deal-mahogany, tin-silver-backed brushes, wooden-marble clocks, paper-silk draperies, and various other counterfeits of the genuine article which present a bold front and catch the passing eye, and which enable people with small means and big notions to get a prominent place in the present list. But when in a short time the gilt wears off the gingerbread and the deal shows through the mahogany, nasty remarks are made, which reach the ears of the donors—through the means of wireless telegraphy—and in many cases life-long friendships are severed.

### DRINKS FOR THE SICK.

Drinks, properly prepared, are quite as important to the sick room as food. Especially during the summer season, and when suffering from febrile conditions, will the value and advantage of cooling and refrigerant drinks be appreciated; while mucilaginous demulcent fluids will be found soothing to irritable states of the alimentary canal and pulmonary and urinary systems.

### Imperial Drink.

Dissolve from two to three drachms of cream of tartar in a quart of boiling water, add the juice of one lemon and a little lemon-peel, and sweeten with sugar. When cold it may be taken freely as a cooling drink and diuretic. A valuable drink in threatened sunstroke and passive congestion of the brain.

### Lemonade.

Pare thinly the rind of a lemon, and cut the lemon into slices. Put the peel and sliced lemon into a jug with an ounce of white sugar, and pour over them one pint of boiling water. Cover the jug closely, and keep until cold. Strain or pour off the liquid. Citron may be used instead of lemon, and likewise furnishes a grateful and refreshing refrigerant beverage.

### Milk Lemonade.

Sugar, 1½lb, dissolved in a quart of boiling water, together with half a pint of lemon-juice and 1½ pints of milk. This makes a cooling, agreeable, nourishing beverage.

### Barley Water with White of Egg.

Take a tablespoonful of coarse barley and wash well with cold water, rejecting the washings; then boil for an hour or more with 1½ pints of clean water in a covered vessel or saucepan. Add a pinch of salt, enough sugar to render palatable, and strain. To four or six ounces of barley water thus prepared add the white of one egg. The value of this preparation in gastro-intestinal inflammation and irritation is not easily overestimated. In the entero-colitis of very young infants, its exclusive administration for thirty-six and forty-eight hours will often relieve when all other measures have failed.

*Maureen*

Says the London correspondent of the 'Age':—  
'Miss Amy Castles is reaping an ample harvest from her recent success at the Queen's Hall. That one step, made with slight preliminary announcement, and at an ordinary afternoon performance, has advanced her into the front rank of English concert singers.'

### HOW TO PAINT A HOUSE CHEAP.

**Carrara Paint** In White and Colors, Mixed Ready for Inside and Outside Use. CARRARA retains its Gloss and Lustre for at least five years, and will look better in eight years than lead and oil paints do in two. USE CARRARA, the first coat of which is no greater than lead and oil paints, and your paint bills will be reduced by over 50 per cent. A beautifully-illustrated booklet, entitled 'How to Paint a House Cheap,' will be forwarded free on application.

K. RAMSAY AND CO., 19 Vogel Street, Dunedin.

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