

## Science Siftings

By 'Volt'

### A Costly Fuel.

A diamond burning in the electric arc was lately exhibited on a screen by Sir William Crookes. The stone could be seen to sprout and swell and blacken under the intense heat until nothing remained but a swollen lump of graphite.

### Serpent Poison.

Snake venom, says a British physician has been shown by recent research to be a highly composite substance, containing various poisonous proteid bodies, which are variously affected by heat and fluorescent solutions in sunlight. That it has so little toxic effect when taken by the mouth is due to its slight absorption by the stomach and alteration by the bile and pancreatic juice.

### Our Ancestors' Hair.

Red is believed by Dr. Beddoe, a European anthropologist, to have been the original color of the hair of Europeans, and he attributes the brown pigment to the action of heat. Red hair is occasionally found among the negroes, and dull dark hair among the pigmies of Central Africa. Chinese and Japanese adults always have black hair, but Japanese children sometimes have dark reddish yellow hair, and Chinese children may have brown hair.

### A New Island.

News by the San Francisco mail states that an island is growing up out of the ocean in Behring Sea. The statement was made on the authority of Captain John Trowbridge, of the steamer 'North Western,' The 'North Western' while at Dutch Harbor, fell in with the revenue cutter 'Perry,' which had finished a cruise of investigation in the neighborhood of the island. The officers of the cutter had photographs of the island, which first rose from the sea fifty-two miles from Dutch Harbor in June last. It was being steadily pushed higher, and the officers declared that it was now nine hundred feet above the ocean. The sea in the neighborhood was boiling, and from the surface clouds of steam were continually escaping. The island lies directly between Bogoslof and Fire Islands, and until it cools off it is impossible to make a landing on it.

### Has the Gulf Stream Turned?

Scientists are at the present moment greatly perplexed and mystified at the reports which are coming to hand of the vagaries of the Gulf Stream, which, abandoning its steady course north-east, is, according to the statements of eminently respectable captains, at present flowing in another direction, a proceeding dangerous to navigation, and calculated to exercise an unpleasant influence on the weather conditions. The remarkable vagaries of the weather have hitherto been ascribed to the Californian earthquake. The first report published here (says the New York correspondent of the 'Central News') that the Stream was flowing backwards were naturally treated in the press with levity, but later advices have modified these yarns, and now arrives Captain Quick, of the Morgan liner 'El Alba,' to give what is probably the real state of affairs. He says:—'After passing the Lights on Sombrero Key, in the Strait of Florida, we should have begun to feel the help of the Gulf Stream. When we did not reach Alligator Reef, thirty-five miles farther, until nearly one o'clock in the afternoon I could not account for it. The screw was making sixty-eight revolutions, which drives her at fourteen knots, but it had taken half an hour longer than usual. Between two other points, thirty-four miles apart, we lost another half-hour.' The captain concluded that the Gulf Stream, instead of setting north-east at the usual speed of a knot and a half, was setting westward at the same rate of progress. Captain Quick proves his assertions in a most categorical way, but has no theory to account for the phenomenon, though he is, like many others, inclined to give the earthquake credit for his experience.

Small boy,—little pool,  
Oh joy,—no school,  
Felt wet,—bad cold,  
Home get,—mother scold,  
Boy sick,—nearly dead,  
Cure quick, doctor said,  
Don't wait, but secure

WOODS' GREAT PEPPERMINT CURE.

## Intercolonial

A cable message announces the death of the Rev. Father Philip Bernard Lassetter at Kingswood, Bristol. Father Lassetter was a brother of Colonel Lassetter, and a native of Sydney. He became an Anglican clergyman in England, but his studies led him to join the Catholic Church. He was an able preacher and a most zealous missionary.

The celebrations in connection with the silver jubilee of the foundation of the St. Vincent de Paul Society in New South Wales commenced on Saturday, September 8, at the Federation Hall, Sydney, when there was a very large attendance of representatives from the different conferences in the State. His Eminence the Cardinal, accompanied by the Right Rev. Mgr. O'Haran, was received by the Hon. L. F. Heydon, M.L.C., president of the Superior Council of Australasia, and other officers of the society. His Eminence delivered an address on Catholic charity.

Mr. James Munday, a well-known manufacturer of Geelong (Vic.), died on September 7. He had been a member of Geelong Town Council, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Protectionist Association. At the funeral the boys of St. Augustine's Band, the members of the Hibernian Society and the Hibernian Club, and the employees of Munday's tannery and some of the woollen factory employees, walked, while over a hundred vehicles followed. After a ceremony at St. Mary's Church, Monsignor McKenna officiated at the cemetery, being assisted by five other priests.

A few days ago his Eminence Cardinal Moran received a private cable message from Mr. John Redmond, M.P., conveying the following resolution respecting support accorded the Home Rule movement in Australia:—'The directory of the National League desire to place on record the profound gratitude of the Irish people, not merely to the Irish race in Australia, but to the whole Australian people, for their generous aid in support of the Home Rule cause, and recognise with pleasure the energy, eloquence and ability of the delegates, Messrs. Devlin, and Donovan, in prosecuting their arduous mission.'

The list of scholarships of the Melbourne Central Training College is now published. His Grace the Archbishop of Melbourne offers three, two of which are for the students of the archdiocese, and the third is open to students of the Commonwealth. The Most Rev. Dr. Higgins offers one, which will be open to the students of the diocese of Ballarat. The Rev. Mother Provincial of Mary's Mount, Ballarat, offers one, which will be open to the students of the Commonwealth. Another scholarship is offered by the college authorities, which will be open to graduates of the University, or to students who have passed the second year of Arts.

The Marist Fathers in Sydney have received news of the death of three of their confreres on the mission in the islands—Fathers Fraysse, of New Caledonia; Father N. Estienne, of Falefa, Upulo Island, in the Samoan Archipelago; and Father B. Trouillet, of Fagauta, Rotuma Island, in the Fiji Archipelago. Father Fraysse was a brother of the late Bishop Fraysse, of New Caledonia, and, like Father Estienne, had been engaged on the mission for about 27 years. Both were middle-aged men. Father Trouillet had been working in the missionfield for forty years, and was an old man. His mission at Fagauta, of which he was practically the founder, is a very flourishing one. He was in Sydney about eighteen months ago.

On Monday, September 10 (says the Sydney 'Catholic Press'), at a private hospital in Darlinghurst, Mr. Alphonso Henry Redwood, of Wellington, N.Z., passed away in his 39th year. He was the eldest son of Mr. Charles Redwood, formerly of New Zealand, but who has for the past ten years resided in Toowoomba, Queensland. The late Mr. Redwood, with his wife, arrived in Sydney about three months ago. He was on business bent, but unfortunately he was stricken down with the illness which proved fatal. As he was a strong, robust man, his sudden death has come as a great shock to his many friends. His remains were removed to St. Mary's Cathedral. Mass for the repose of his soul was said on Wednesday morning, and the last rites of the Church were performed by the Right Rev. Mgr. O'Haran, and the Rev. Father Kirby officiated at the grave. The remains were interred at Rookwood. Mr. Redwood leaves a wife and four children to mourn their loss. The greatest sympathy is felt for the bereaved in their great grief.