

Science Siftings

By 'Volt'

Electroplating Fabrics.

A method has been perfected in France, by which laces and other delicate fabrics can be coated with metal, gold, silver, nickel, and bronze. It is a system of electroplating, and produces wonderful and beautiful effects. The coating is so fine that not the slightest irregularity can be perceived, and the laces remain soft and flexible.

A New Use for the Phonograph.

Speaking the other day to students at Cambridge University on the use of phonographs, Dr. Karl Broul hoped that it would not be long before they would be able to take away records—perhaps post-card records—of fine portions of impressive speeches delivered within the walls of the University. It may be added that post-cards containing living records for the gramophone are being sold at present.

Fire-proof Scenery.

M. Moissan, of Paris, has invented an absolutely fireproof scenery for use in theatres, which has already been adopted in several playhouses in France. He discards all paper canvas, and wood, and replaces them with metal, light galvanized iron tubes, and metallic gauze. The tubing is for the framework, and the gauze is instead of canvas, and on it the scenes are painted.

A New Lantern.

A new form of lantern has recently made its appearance, which differs markedly both in its optical principles and in the results obtained from the ordinary projecting apparatus which the lecturer is accustomed to use. This apparatus projects on a screen not only the image of a lantern slide, but reflects as well pictures in books, specimens of insects, or other natural objects, mechanical models and the like, and this all in the natural colors of the objects. The lecturer is thus enabled to make use of the countless illustrations in magazines and books, of an innumerable series of color prints, sketches, photographs, and of working models that can be shown in motion on the screen.

The Dust Nuisance.

Nottingham has solved the dust nuisance to such an extent (says the 'Daily Mail') that although hundreds of motor cars are daily driven through or about the city, they now speed along without the suspicion of a dust-cloud in their trail. The corporation has found that calcium chloride, dissolved in the water with which the streets are sprinkled, keeps the roads perpetually damp. One dressing every three or four weeks is quite enough, even in the hottest weather. The cost of keeping a road free from dust by this method far a year is about £60 per annum.

Utilising Niagara.

H. W. Buck, an engineer, makes out that Americans have an expensive luxury in Niagara Falls.

The total hydraulic energy of the falls, says Mr. Buck, would represent about 3,500,000 horse-power. To generate one horse-power continuously for a year by a steam engine requires about 14 tons of coal.

To generate, therefore, continuously 3,500,000 horse-power by steam would require about 50,000,000 tons of coal per year.

To generate electric power by steam with the most modern steam plant costs not less than £10 a horse-power a year, allowing for fixed charges and operating expenses. Niagara power can be generated and sold in large quantities for £7 a year less than is possible from the use of coal and the steam engine.

From the above it will be seen that if all the hydraulic energy of the falls were utilised for power purposes there would result to the country an annual saving of £7 a horse-power for 3,500,000 horse-power, or £24,500,000, and in addition there would be an annual saving in coal consumption of 50,000,000 tons.

This waste involved in prohibiting the development of Niagara power might be likened to a great conflagration in which 50,000,000 tons of coal were annually consumed. Such a conflagration might be one of the most magnificent sights in the world, and people might come from all parts to view it, but the human race would certainly be justified in using every effort to stop the waste by putting out the fire.

Intercolonial

The death is reported of Mr. D. F. Dennehy, a veteran journalist on the editorial staff of 'Melbourne Advocate.' Mr. Dennehy, who was in his 60th year at the time of his death, was a native of Cork, and came to Australia at a very early age. He was an active, zealous journalist and a good type of the patriotic Irishman and devout Catholic.

His Grace Dr. Kelly, Coadjutor-Archbishop of Sydney, laid the foundation stone of the new convent at Brewarrina on Sunday, September 30. Notwithstanding the indifferent weather, Brewarrina turned out en masse to meet his Grace, and laid £200 on the foundation stone. His Lordship Bishop Dunne, of Wilcannia, the Rev. Father Carroll (Brewarrina), and the Rev. Fathers Killian (Bourke), and Hughes (Cobar), assisted at the ceremonies.

On Wednesday, September 26, at Armidale an address, accompanied with a handsomely-bound 'Catholic Encyclopaedia,' was presented to Right Rev. Mgr. Corcoran to commemorate the honor conferred on him by the Pope in making him a Domestic Prelate. The following priests of the diocese were present: Rev. Fathers J. King, C. Smiers, J. Hamlin, T. Sheehy, P. Magrath, T. Harrington, and the Very Rev. Father Guerrini, who in felicitous terms proposed the health of Monsignor Corcoran.

In the course of an address in opening a bazaar at St. John's Church, East Melbourne, the Archbishop of Melbourne alluded to the agitation against all forms of drink and gambling. Dr. Carr, in the course of his remarks, said:—Those were not wise who tried to uproot nature with a fork, rather than guide and direct it along safe paths. In the former case it would return, and, freed from safe control, would seek indulgence in excess. This was his reply to those who said that, admitting the morality of games of chance and small raffles when conducted on safe lines, still we should, for the good of others, suppress and sacrifice even what was in itself lawful. The good of others required temperate zeal, and it was only such zeal that would suggest a practical remedy for the admitted and widespread evils of unlawful gambling. There were people, too, who sought to put down by force of law all traffic in intoxicating drink. Such attempts would result in worse than failure, and would lead to secret traffic, and to practices at present unknown in well-conducted hotels.

The news of the death of the Right Rev. Dr. Amandus Lamaze, S.M., Vicar-Apostolic of Central Oceania, was received in Sydney recently. His Lordship died at Maofaga, the head mission in the Tongan group. He had been ailing for some time, and recently he was practically an invalid, though as late as three years ago he was able to say Mass and perform other duties. In 1903 he found that his health was beginning to fail, and it was necessary to have a Coadjutor to assist him in his arduous work. He applied for one, and the Very Rev. Father Olier, then Provincial of the Marist Fathers in Australia and Oceania, who was at one time a missionary under Bishop Lamaze, was elected on the unanimous vote of the priests of the vicariate. Dr. Olier, who was consecrated Titular Bishop of Tipaza in St. Mary's Cathedral by his Eminence Cardinal Moran, on April 17, 1904, is now returning from his visit ad limina to Rome, and is expected to arrive in Sydney shortly. Dr. Lamaze was 73 years of age, and had been for 44 years a member of the Society of Mary.

The Sydney 'Freeman's Journal' of October 6 reports that Mr. Joseph Devlin, M.P., had just concluded a series of most successful meetings in North Queensland, including large gatherings in Townsville, Mackay, Charters Towers, Cairns, Mareeba, and Chillagoe. The financial outcome of these meetings realised over £1000. During the same time Mr. Donovan was holding very successful meetings in the northern districts of New South Wales. On Saturday last both delegates were to address a meeting at Newcastle, after which they were to visit Armidale, Hillgrove, Glen Innes, Tenterfield, and Bathurst, the programme occupying the whole of October. Meetings are to be held in and around Sydney during the early part of November, and the delegates are expected to accompany his Eminence Cardinal Moran to Goulburn on Saturday, November 17. The Bishop of Goulburn (the Right Rev. Dr. Gallagher) will arrange for a public demonstration in connection with the opening of the Kenmore Orphanage, after which Messrs. Devlin and Donovan will continue their No. 2 tour through the Goulburn districts, ending on the Victorian border at the close of November.