

Narelle will be assisted in her New Zealand tour by Mr. Chester Fentress, an American tenor of exceptional ability, and Miss Brandon-Usher, a talented young pianist. The company's New Zealand season opens in Auckland on November 1. The company will appear in Christchurch during carnival week, and will be in Dunedin early in December.

St. Patrick's College Scholarships

Four Scholarships of the yearly value of £25 each, in connection with St. Patrick's College, Wellington, tenable for four years, will be offered for competition in December. The Scholarships are open to all Catholic boys attending the parochial schools of the Colony. Candidates must be under the age of fourteen on January 1, 1906, and application to be examined must be forwarded to the Rector before November 10, accompanied by an entrance fee of 10s. The examinations will be conducted in writing, and will be held late in December, 1906, at centres to suit the general convenience of candidates. Further particulars will be found in our advertising columns.

PAINLESS SURGERY

USE OF STOVAINE

That it should be made possible for a man to lie and watch his leg being cut off, his broken limbs set, his appendix removed, or tumors removed from within him, and yet feel no pain, might once have been regarded as a sport of fancy (says the Melbourne 'Advocate'). However, by the injection of drugs affecting the nervous system, instead of by the use of anaesthetics, which reduce the patient to a condition of unconsciousness, this has been accomplished, not only in experimental surgery in the great centres of the world, but in ordinary surgical practice. Within the last few months the use of 'stovaine' has been extensively adopted in surgery in this city.

Surgeons have long been trying to find some means of producing insensibility to pain without the use of inhaled drugs. The first experiments were made with cocaine, which was used in New York in 1885. The method which is employed with cocaine, with stovaine, and with even newer drugs, is the injection of a small quantity of the drug into the lumbar region of the spinal canal—the canal in which the spinal cord swings. The drug acts upon the roots of the nerves entering the spinal cord, and produces, in all parts of the body supplied by the affected nerves, an insensibility to pain. The patient remains in full possession of his mental faculties (which is an advantage in many operations), but in the parts affected he loses sometimes all sensation, and, nearly always, the faculty of perceiving pain. The injection, of course, cannot be made too high in the spinal canal, or the nerves of the lungs might be paralysed and breathing stopped. The effects of the injection may last from half an hour to two hours.

The first use of stovaine in Melbourne was made in the Melbourne Hospital some five months ago, in an operation performed by Mr. Fred Bird. The drug has been used very frequently since in various public and private hospitals of the city. In some cases there has been failure in the attempt to secure by means of the injection, the condition of 'analgesia,' or freedom from pain, but no other untoward effects have been observed. The shock produced by the injection is but slight as compared with that which is attendant on the inhalation of an anaesthetic; and the only distress experienced is headache, with occasional sickness.

'Yes,' a leading Melbourne surgeon remarked, 'a patient will laugh and chat with you all the time that you are operating on him. He is apparently quite unconscious that you are putting his broken bones together, or cutting into his limbs, or opening his body. As a general rule, you know, we don't have the patient placed in such a position that he can watch everything that is going on. We lay a towel across his body, or something like that, because, after all, it isn't very good for his nerves that he should watch exactly what you are doing—especially if he happens to be imaginative. Not long ago, however, I operated on the body of a boy whose curiosity was too strong to be resisted. It was an abdominal operation, and he followed all my actions with a series of very pertinent and intelligent questions.'

A more remarkable story concerned an operation performed in one of the hospitals. It was expected that it would be a comparatively slight one, but,

after it began, it turned out that a large internal tumour would have to be removed. The doubt was whether the effect of the stovaine would continue long enough to allow the operation to be concluded. The surgeon put on the greatest speed which safety permitted, and the patient, who knew the problem which was being confronted, was probably more interested than anyone else in the race between recovering nerves and moving knife. The operation was concluded in time, 'though I must admit,' said a surgeon who was present, 'that the patient said "Ugh!" as the last couple of stitches were put in.'

Two Death Beds

One evening in the month of January, 1878 (says a writer in 'Donahoe's Magazine'), Victor Emmanuel II. went to enjoy his after-dinner cigar. A few minutes later he lay unconscious on the floor, in the throes of death, within the walls of the apostolic palace on the Quirinal Hill, which he had taken from the Pope.

Three days later, the King died, after being fully reconciled to Holy Church. The moment he learned of his danger, Pius IX. had sent his own private chaplain to absolve the King from the sentence of excommunication and to convey to the dying man his apostolic benediction. Such was the return the outraged Pontiff made his despoiler. Victor Emmanuel's remains were laid to rest in the Pantheon.

One month later, Pius the Ninth, who celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of his episcopal consecration, who had outreigned the years of Peter and seen the thirty-second year of his pontificate, fell ill and calmly passed away amid the tears and prayers of Christendom.

Before his death, the Pope changed his mind regarding his last resting place.

Some years previously he had his tomb prepared in the Basilica of St. Mary Major and, up to a short time before his death intended to be laid there. As the end drew near he called the ecclesiastics who surrounded his bed: 'Bury me,' he said, 'out among the poor of St. Lorenzo's. It is there I wish to rest.' And Pius the Ninth sleeps to-day—out among the poor—in the Church of St. Lawrence—away from the world that had made his life a prolonged martyrdom.

Curious Facts About the Tide

To the ordinary landsman the tides along the coast are most puzzling. He has been taught that the tides rise and fall twice in twenty-four hours, and that this depends in some mysterious way upon the moon. But when it occurs that in his travels he sees a spot along the shore where there is no tide at all, he is at a loss to explain this phenomenon.

To be quite exact, there is only one ocean in the world where the tides follow the moon with absolute regularity. This is the great Antarctic basin, and the reason is that there, and there only, is to be found a sweep of water which is entirely uninterrupted by land. The enormous wave raised by the moon's attraction courses round the world south of Cape Horn and the Cape of Good Hope with absolutely nothing to break it. Here in our northern hemisphere great masses of land interrupt the tidal waves and, combined with the shallowness of the inland seas, cause them to perform antics which seem most strange.

The depth of the water has much to do with tidal irregularities. Out in the open ocean, where the tide is abysmal—that is, about five thousand fathoms—the speed of the waves is amazing. Where the depth decreases to five fathoms the tide cannot travel more than fifteen miles an hour. In England, for example, which is surrounded by narrow, land broken seas, the result is that they get some of the most terrible and dangerous tidal races and currents to be found anywhere in the world. The most formidable of these is the whirlpool between the islands of Jura and Scarba, on the west coast of Scotland. This is known as 'the Caldron of the Spotted Seas.' Here is a race running at a speed to be matched only by a mountain torrent. The force of a heavy tidal current pushing up a wide mouthed river causes what is termed a 'bore.' The most striking example of this tidal feature is seen on the Amazon, a moving wall of water thirty feet in height, and reaching from bank to bank, rushing inland from the ocean.

The London Studio, Dunedin, under the direction of Miss A. Taylor Blackie, provides first-class modern instruction in all branches of drawing and painting.

LANGFORD and RHIND

... (late W. and H. Langford), ...
16 LONDON ST. 'Phone 689

Funeral Furnishers
and Embalmers

Christchurch

Addresses—HERBERT LANGFORD, 16 London St., Richmond. 'Phone 689.

JOHN RHIND, 48 Montreal St., Sydenham. 'Phone 1608.

Town Office—182 CASHEL ST.