

## Science Siftings

By 'Volt'

### Disc Cinematographs.

Instead of the long celluloid film, a London photographer uses circular glass plates for the cinematograph. The pictures are taken in a spiral, and a plate 15 inches in diameter holds several hundred, recording a story lasting about four minutes.

### A New Use for Balloons.

A German engineer, Mr. Balderauer, of Salzburg, has proposed a method of using balloons for railway purposes, which is now being tested. A stationary balloon is fixed to a slide running along a single steel rail. This rail is carried up the side of a steep mountain, which ordinary railroads could not ascend except by means of heavy inclines, with vast earth-works and tunnels. The balloon is moored by a steel cable to the rail at a height of about 35 feet above the ground. The conductor can cause the balloon to ascend or descend at will. The lifting power is furnished by hydrogen gas, and the descent is caused by water pressure poured into a large tank at the upper end of the road.

### The First Iron Boats.

An iron boat was built in 1777, on the River Fosse, in Yorkshire, England. It was 15 feet long, and was made of sheet iron. In 1815 Thomas Jevons launched a small iron boat on the Mersey. It was built by Joshua Morton, near Birrington, and fitted up at Liverpool, and was the first iron boat that floated on salt water. The first iron steam vessel was built by the Horsley company for the River Seine, and called Aaron Manby, after its projector. He took out a patent in France for iron steamships in 1820, and formed a society for the construction of such vessels. She was put together in London, and took a cargo of linseed and iron castings to Havre and Paris. If, however, a Dutch tradition is to be credited, the first iron vessel that ever floated was the famous Flying Dutchman herself. She was launched in 1657, and her fate was supposed to be a judgment on the impiety of those who violated the order of Nature by making iron float.

### Wool or Shoddy.

In view of the reduced number of sheep throughout the world, remarks 'Bruni' in 'The Australasian,' the quantity of wool brought to market must naturally show a corresponding shortage. The high prices ruling this season will stimulate the ingenuity of manufacturers to produce so-called wollen fabrics, in which there is less and less of wool, in order to supply the trade with cheap materials, supposed to be composed wholly or partly of wool, at low price. For many years past it has been a subject of complaint on the part of wool growers that goods are put on the market purporting to be woollen, which in most cases contain very little wool, and in some instances have not a particle of wool in them. Similar frauds in other products are heavily punished; but there is no law to protect the wool-grower. A writer in the 'Scottish Farmer' puts the case very forcibly. 'If goods made in Germany must be sold as such; if margarine is differentiated by law from butter; if milk must be up to a certain legalised standard, why should not woollen goods have at least a minimum percentage of wool in their composition before they could be sold as woollen. Anything of a shoddy or grossly adulterated nature is to be held in disrepute. A 'oo' is the genuine article, and in this and other countries, where sanitary clothing is increasing in favor, it will always have plenty demand.'

### 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 & CO., 19 Vogel Street, Dunedin.

## Intercolonial

The Cathedral Hall, Melbourne, was filled to overflowing, many being unable to gain admission, on November 27, on the occasion of a farewell entertainment tendered to the Irish envoys, Mr. J. T. Donovan, who was expected to accompany Mr. Devlin, was unable to be present.

Much sympathy (writes a Melbourne correspondent) has gone out to the Rev. J. J. Malone, P.P. of Daylesford, in the lamented death of his distinguished brother, Professor Malone, M.A. The deceased scholar had attained his 1st year, and was a professor of the Presentation College, Cork.

The Rev. Father O'Keefe, who has made many warm friends among all classes, and creeds of the community during his residence in Orange, leaves next week on a visit to Ireland, to see his only living relative, his mother, after an absence of 20 years in Australia. He has resided at Orange 17 years, and the residents of the town and district are to present him with an address and purse of sovereigns.

Canon Godby, speaking at the Church of England Congress at Melbourne said that the convent school teaching of the Catholics was the best and cheapest because it was done by communities. They would never be able to compete with the Catholic schools until they used similar means. The Catholics had communities of thoroughly-trained, highly-educated women, who gave themselves to teaching, not in order to make a living, but because the giving of teaching was the outgoing expression of their love for the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Rev. Father O'Leary, who is leaving for Ireland after laboring in Junee for seven years, was, on November 21, tendered a complimentary social, in the Oddfellows' Hall, Junee, by the members of the St. Joseph's Branch of the H.A.C.B. Society, of which he is a member. The members of the Ladies' Branch of the society were present. The opportunity was availed of to present Mr. D. Moore, J.P., one of the original members of the branch, who has left the district for Wagga, with a souvenir of his long connection with Hibernianism in Junee and a mark of appreciation.

Cardinal Moran, in replying to the statement made by Mr. Carruthers at the Protestant Defence Association's meeting, said—Some years ago, I remember that one of the Governors of this State sent one of his attendants, who was stricken by illness, to St. Vincent's Hospital. He was told by those who murmured against this institution that he was making a mistake, and that the patient would receive no care, as the institution was a Catholic one. However, the Governor went incognito, and, in the ward in which his attendant was, he found 23 patients. He went round from bed to bed, and found in that ward alone that, of 23, 17 were of different denominations of Protestants; that all allowed, with one accord, that nothing could exceed the kindness and the charity which those angels of mercy, the Sisters, dispensed to them.

The Most Rev. Dr. Kelly, Coadjutor Archbishop of Sydney, addressing a meeting at Randwick, said that the Catholics were paying 2½ per cent. of the cost of maintaining the present public instruction, yet it was framed to prevent them participating in its uses, except at the cost of what they held to be dearest to them and unrenounceable. Surely all who supported a cow had a claim to a share of the milk of that cow. Catholic payments towards the support of public schools excluding those which some of the children of the denomination attended, approached £700,000. An additional £2,250,000 had been paid in working their own schools, and if the cost of buildings, along with other expenditure were included, the Catholics of the State had expended £2,000,000 in education since 1880.

The Cathedral Hall, Melbourne, was packed to its utmost capacity on Monday evening, November 26, when a meeting of the Catholic laity was held to protest against the many unjustifiable attacks recently made on the hierarchy, priesthood, and religious Orders. Admission was by ticket, and hundreds of people who sought admission were unable to get into the hall. An overflow meeting was addressed by those who spoke in the hall and by others. A large number of women desired to be present, but the meeting was confined to men only. Mr. D. Slattery occupied the chair, and speeches were delivered by Messrs. R. G. Duffy, K.C., F. Brennan, G. Jones, Donald Stewart, W. L. Bowditch, and others. The meeting closed with cheers for the archbishop and the priesthood, and for religious peace and toleration amongst all classes in this community.