

Science Siftings

By 'Volt'

Sound of the Human Voice.

No man knows the sound of his own voice. He hears himself through two channels—the outer ear and the eustachian tube. He hears his friend through the ear only: hence he would rather listen to himself than to his friend. Try your voice in a gramophone. At first you will not recognise it, but you will immediately identify that of your friend.

Mahogany Bridge.

A bridge built entirely of mahogany, claimed to be the only one of the kind in the world, is in the State of Chiapas, Mexico. The bridge spans the Rio Michol, and its total length, including approaches, exceeds 150ft, while the width is 15ft. It is used by both teams and pedestrians, and, though somewhat rude and primitive in construction, is very substantial. None of the timbers of the flooring were sawn, for in that region there are no sawmills, but were hewn and split.

Disease-Breeding Insects.

It is contended by scientific experts that the mysterious and dreadful sleeping sickness peculiar to certain regions in Africa is carried, if not caused by the bite of the terrible tsetse fly. It has been demonstrated that the mosquito carries the germ of yellow fever. Now comes Dr. W. J. Goodhue, who announces that after years of research he has demonstrated that the bacillus of leprosy is spread by the cimex lectularius, which is the technical name of the ordinary bedbug. Dr. Goodhue is the medical superintendent of the Molokai leper settlement.

To a Hair's Breadth.

Major McMahon made some interesting statements in a lecture on standards in weights and measures at the Royal Institute recently. A platinum bar at Palace yard is so accurate that it can be used to measure microns which are the 25,000th part of an inch. The balance at King's yard is so sensitive that when a 20lb weight was placed in each scale and one grain was added to one of them, the beam oscillated for twenty-six hours. When the balance at the Paris bureau is used the operation takes place six or seven yards away from it, and the readings are made through a telescope in order to prevent inaccuracy arising from the heat of the operator's body.

Centenary of Steam Navigation.

'It is of great interest to recall that this year is the centenary of steam navigation on a commercially successful basis,' said the president of the Engineering Association of New South Wales, in addressing that body the other day. 'It was in 1807 that Robert Fulton built and first ran on the Hudson River the steamer "Clermont," which made the first really successful voyage by steam from New York to Albany, a distance of 150 miles, in 32 hours against current and wind. The "Clermont" was 133ft long, 18ft beam, and 9ft deep. It was fitted with paddle engines made in England by Boulton and Watt, and said to be 20 horse-power. The new Cunard liners "Lusitania" and "Mauritania" are 785ft long, 88ft beam, 60ft in depth, with a displacement of 43,000 tons, and a total indicated horse-power of 68,000.'

The World's Railways.

Nearly half the railway mileage of the globe (533,000 miles) lies within the confines of the United States of America, viz., 212,350 miles. How insignificant in comparison are Continental pretensions in this direction is revealed by the fact that Russia and Germany, tying for second place, have only 34,130 and 34,000 miles respectively to their credit. India, Austro-Hungary, and France are all the superiors of the United Kingdom, which can only boast of 22,634 miles of metals. Regarding gross receipts, however, Great Britain occupies a more enviable position. While the United States totals a sum of £395,000,000, with receipts per mile £1,860, Great Britain can boast of £111,800,000, with receipts per mile £4,940; and Russia's gross receipts, with about 12,000 more miles of line than the United Kingdom possesses, reach less than a third of the figure.

Intercolonial

A few Sundays ago his Grace the Coadjutor-Archbishop of Sydney blessed and laid the foundation stone of a new convent for the Nursing Sisters of the Little Company of Mary, in connection with the Lewis-ham Hospital. The new convent will cost about £5000. The subscriptions at the ceremony amounted to over £300.

The Rev. Father Buckley, who has been for some years parish priest of Junee, has been appointed to succeed the Very Rev. Father Slaterry, V.G., at Wagga. The Rev. Father Galey, parish priest of Murrumburrah, has been appointed to Junee, and the Rev. Father O'Shea has been transferred from Wyalong to Murrumburrah.

The death is announced of the Rev. Brother Hurlley, of the Christian Brothers, which occurred at Lewisham on March 22. The late Brother was a native of County Limerick, and entered the novitiate of the Christian Brothers in Dublin in 1877, being then eighteen years of age. Having completed his novitiate and the usual course of training, he began his labors in Mullingar, in which town he remained until 1898, when he was sent to Australia.

On March 19 the Very Rev. Dean Tobin, of Armidale, was presented with a magnificent gold watch by the Bishop and priests of the diocese. His Lordship expressed his great pleasure that the good priests of the diocese had thought it to honor the youthful Dean, and give him such a practical proof of their esteem and affection. An artistically illuminated address was read and presented to the Dean on behalf of the Ursuline nuns. Accompanying the address were a gold-mounted watch-guard with cross of gold and several other articles for personal use.

The Right Rev. Mgr. O'Haran received a pleasant surprise at the opening of the annual conference of the H.A.C.B. Society of New South Wales, when he was presented with a specially-illuminated past president's certificate and address by the members of St. Mary's branch of the Society. The Monsignor has always taken a deep interest in friendly societies (says the 'Catholic Press'), and when the Tabernans were established in the Cathedral parish a few years ago he was elected first president. The young branch is now one of the strongest in the Society in the Commonwealth, and in a great measure its prosperous state is due to the guidance and counsel of Monsignor O'Haran. He is popular with the members of the Society generally, as was amply proved by the ovation accorded him in St. Mary's Hall, when representatives from every part of the State were present.

The St. Patrick's Day celebrations throughout the Commonwealth were carried out with great éclat this year. March 18 was a public holiday in Queensland. In Brisbane on March 16 the Queensland Irish Association held a big dinner, at which the Premier and nearly all the Ministers of the Crown were present. In nearly every centre in New South Wales the day was celebrated with great enthusiasm. Owing to the inclemency of the weather the sports programme at the Agricultural Grounds, Sydney, had to be postponed. The national concert was held in the Sydney Town Hall on March 18, and attracted a huge attendance, the building being densely packed, while 2000 people were unable to gain admission. The celebration in Melbourne was highly successful. A procession of the various Catholic societies with bands and banners marched through the city to the Exhibition in the morning. It is estimated that 4000 persons took part in the procession, the head of which had reached the Exhibition before its 'tail' had left St. Patrick's Hall. Arrived at the Exhibition, visitors were entertained with a full and varied programme. At the luncheon the keynote of the speeches was a twofold one, most of the speakers urging the cause of Home Rule, and denouncing the introduction of sectarianism into Australian politics. St. Patrick's Day was celebrated in Adelaide under the happiest auspices. Delightful weather, a fine procession, splendid sports, and a record attendance made up a conjunction with which the celebration is not favored every year. The general opinion was that the demonstration was the best ever witnessed in Adelaide.

For Children's Hacking Cough at night Woods' Great Peppermint Cure. 1s 6d and 2s 6d....