

SPAIN—A Contradiction

Reuter's Madrid correspondent, on the authority of the newspaper, 'Epoca,' states that the allegations to the effect that the Holy See made representations to the Spanish Government, with a view to preventing the visit of King Alfonso to M. Loubet, is completely unfounded. The French Cabinet, the journal adds, never used persuasion with the Spanish Government to open or pursue an anti-clerical policy. The cordial sentiments both of France and the Vatican towards Spain, says the journal, have always excluded all likelihood of such interference, which no Spanish Government would have tolerated.

UNITED STATES—The Oldest Church

The Church of San Miguel at Santa Fe is claimed by New Mexicans to be the oldest in the United States. There is much dispute over the exact date of its erection, but it was certainly built between 200 and 300 years ago by the first Indian converts, under the direction of the Spanish Fathers—some say as long ago as 1545. Inside it is like a vault, black and crumbling with cracked adobe roof and a gallery whose wood-work still shows traces of the figures painted there by the Indians—designs like those they put upon their pottery to-day. But the most interesting thing in San Miguel is the old bell, St. Joseph. The old Spanish Fathers brought the bell, already ancient, across the seas from Spain, and over mountains and plateaus from Mexico.

St. Patrick's Day Celebration

The Pope sent a special autograph blessing, on his portrait, for the St. Patrick's Day celebrations in America.

The Value of Catholic Literature

The Very Rev. J. Ryan, S.J., in concluding a mission in the Brisbane Cathedral recently, impressed on the people the great importance of subscribing to Catholic newspapers, as it was by this means that truth was propagated in Catholic homes. The tone of the Press was anti-Christian, and should be avoided. The secular Press of Queensland—what he had seen of it—was a vast improvement on the general Press of Australia, and the Southern Press should take an example from the ideal fairness which characterised the Brisbane papers. The Catholic paper was an essential element in every good, Catholic home, and should be supported every way. Oftentimes Catholic papers suffered from carelessness of Catholics in not paying up their subscriptions. Oftentimes, said the preacher, the paper was sent for years, and, when the bill for payment came, very often a post-card was sent, stopping the paper altogether. This was a shameful and disgraceful action on the part of Catholics—an action which was due to neglect. Catholic papers contain matter out of ordinary news, chiefly about the Catholic Church, and it was the bounden duty of all to subscribe for a Catholic paper, which would bring a blessing to the home. Many of those who grumbled at the Catholic papers were poor specimens of Catholics, and these never subscribed for a paper, yet they talked most. Catholic libraries should also demand the attention of Catholics and the publications of the Catholic Truth Society were extremely interesting. Then the 'Messenger of the Sacred Heart,' as well as the 'Annals of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart,'—all most inexpensive, yet most interesting, channels of devotion—should find a place in every Catholic home, as they would foster piety, and be a means of extending and kindling the love of God in many sunless hearts.

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Domestic

By 'Maureen'

Cookery Hints.

When boiling beetroot be careful you do not break any of the little roots or the skins, or the beet will lose all its color in the water.

In making porridge, see that the water is boiling before putting in the oatmeal.

Never keep tea or coffee in paper; put them in a tin or they will lose their flavor.

Never buy large quantities of spices at a time, as they soon lose their strength.

Much of the unpleasant odor that is carried through the house from boiling vegetables may be avoided by putting a piece of bread in the water with the vegetables, and if a bit of charcoal be added, the cooking of cabbage or cauliflower cannot be detected.

The Danger of Small Wounds.

The treatment of small wounds, such as cuts or pricks, is usually considered a minor point in household surgery; but when we consider the theory of germs, and the antiseptic treatment of wounds, we come to see that every small scratch or pin-prick has its dangers if not properly treated. Cleanliness is all important in the treatment of wounds, large and small. The scratched or torn skin should be at once bathed in water as hot as can be borne, in which a few drops of carbolic acid have been mixed. In this way all dirt, which might otherwise endanger the health of the sufferer, is removed by the hot water, and the wound is purified by the carbolic acid.

In the case of cuts it is a good plan to have always in the house some absorbent cotton, and some old clean linen, which should be in strips from two to four inches wide and half a yard to a yard in length. After the wound has been made perfectly clean dip a suitably sized piece of cotton wool into clean slightly carbolicised water, press out any excess of liquid, then apply over the wound, and wrap up with the linen strips. Cat scratches should always be treated in this way, as the claws of a cat are often unclean, and dirt particles, however small, may give rise to trouble. When a wound refuses to cease bleeding after being wound up, sponging with clean cold water will sometimes aid in stopping the flow of blood. Salt or turpentine should never be applied to a fresh wound, as they not only cause a great deal of unnecessary pain, but often prolong the time of healing.

Few people have escaped at one time or another the unpleasantness of having their fingers jammed, and as the pain caused when the finger is jammed in a door is excruciating in the extreme for the first few minutes, it is well to know of some means of relief. The fingers should be plunged into hot water, as hot as can possibly be borne. This application of hot water causes the nail to expand and soften, and the blood pouring out beneath it has more room to flow; thus the pain is lessened. The finger should then be wrapped in a bread and water poultice. A jammed finger should never be neglected, as it may lead to mortification of the bone if it has been badly crushed, and amputation of the finger must follow. Jammed toes are usually caused through the falling of heavy weights, and should be treated in the same way as a jammed finger.

Persons with unhealthy constitutions cannot take too much care of small injuries in the way of cuts and bruises. What might not in any way affect a healthy individual might, in those with some taint of disease, lead to serious consequences. There is always a danger that even the most insignificant wound may become poisoned unless it is carefully guarded from coming into contact with particles of dirt.

Maureen

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