

Science Siftings

By VOLT

Where Nicotine Got Its Name.

You have heard the story of how the sailors under Columbus were astonished to see the smoke issuing from the nostrils of the natives, and found it was caused from the combustion of the plant tobacco. On their return the tobacco was introduced into Spain and Portugal, and later into England by Sir Walter Raleigh. In 1560 Jean Nicot, who was the French Minister at Lisbon, learned the use of tobacco from a merchant from America. On his return to France he presented the weed to the queen, and it was soon known throughout Europe. From Nicot it was called 'l'herbe nicotine,' the name that has come down to us.

Some Products From Coal.

Has it ever occurred to you that the vanilla with which many a favorite dish of yours is flavored is made from coal? Will you believe that most of the dyes which have stained the fabrics of your clothes, that the naphtha and benzine which your tailor uses in removing stains, and even the sweetest perfumes are all derivatives of coal (says the 'Pall Mall Magazine'). The magicians who have wrought wonders with coal are the gas-maker and the chemist. If coal is burned in the open air heat is produced and nothing left but a little ash. Burn it in a closed vessel, however, and the marvellous change occurs. In the first place, coal gas is produced and, chemically treated, is supplied to every city home. Furthermore, ammonia is obtained, important in modern agriculture because by its means plants can be artificially supplied with the nitrogen they need. Then, again, asphalt is produced, much used in road-making, although the retort is not the chief source of its supply. Lastly, a black, noisome ooze is collected, which goes by the name of 'coal tar.' It is this which, at the touch of the modern chemist's wand, is transformed into the most widely different substances imaginable. The wonders of coal tar do not cease here. It is a palette of gorgeous colors, a medicine chest of potent drugs, a whole arsenal of terrible explosives, a vial of delicious flavors, and a garden of perfumes—the most protean, variegated substance in the world.

Imitating Precious Stones.

About forty artificial precious stones were recently submitted to the Museum of Natural History at Berlin by an association which claimed to have made these stones, based on the process which recently created so much attention. Several official experts, among whom was the professor having knowledge of gems in the Museum of Natural History, two practical experts, and the chief master of the gold and silver smiths' guild of Germany were requested to make a careful examination of the merits of the 'so-called' new discoveries. The report submitted by this committee of experts reads as follows:—'Of the variety of stones we examined we were favorably impressed only by the artificial rubies. Among these were some of great beauty and worthy of consideration. The white sapphires were of no account at all; they appeared dull and washed out. Well imitated were the yellow precious stones; they really resembled the topaz very closely; but this invention carries with it only very little value, since the real topaz is found in such large quantities that they sell at from 2 to 3 marks (47.6 to 71.4 cents) a gramme. Therefore it would seem of little importance to imitate such common stones. Of all the stones we examined, we can only call the artificial rubies a direct success; but the imitation of this latter species of precious stones is no new invention. We therefore declare that there is nothing new or sensational in the claimed invention.'

'Catholic Marriages'. The book of the hour. Single copies, 1s posted; 12 copies and over, 8d each, purchaser to pay carriage. Apply, Manager, 'Tablet', Dunedin.

The boy stood on the school house step
When the master opened the door.
'Hello,' said the master, 'You're first at last!
'You were always behind before!
'I'm early because,' replied the lad,
'I've taken the health renewer
To cure the cough that was so bad—
It's Woods' Great Peppermint Cure.'

Intercolonial

The Rev. T. A. Walsh, S.J., of St. Ignatius' College, River-view, left Sydney on June 27 for an extended tour in Europe.

The Right Rev. Mgr. O'Haran has secured the use of the Town Hall on the Sunday morning during which the American Fleet will be in Sydney.

When the last mail left, Archbishop Kelly had arrived in Rome, and was staying at the Irish College. His Grace was to be received in audience by the Pope within a few days.

About 25,000 persons were present at Manly on Sunday, June 21, at the ceremonies in honor of the Feast of Corpus Christi. Over 20,000 of these were conveyed by steamers from Sydney.

Archbishop Dunne, of Brisbane, celebrated the twenty-sixth anniversary of his consecration as Bishop on June 18. During the present year his Grace will reach the forty-fifth anniversary of his arrival in Brisbane.

His Lordship Bishop Gallagher laid the foundation-stone of additions to the Presentation Convent, Mount Erin, Wagga, on Sunday, June 21. Up to the present, and including the cost of the additions about to be made, a sum of over £22,000 has been spent on the buildings.

Speaking at the opening of the new school of St. Patrick's, Rockhampton, on June 17, Bishop Duhig mentioned that in the last seven years they had spent in the erection of new school buildings £18,000. To this might be added the bequest of the late Very Rev. Father Walsh of £200 to be devoted towards the erection of a boys' school at Townsville.

The Federal Statist's estimate of the population of the Commonwealth and States on December 31 gives the population of New South Wales 1,568,942, Victoria 1,248,095, Queensland 541,765, South Australia 302,064, West Australia 261,568, Tasmania 148,008. The increase of population was 77,556 for 1907.

The Most Rev. Dr. Delany, Archbishop-elect of Hobart, will not remain in Rome until the Consistory, which has been postponed to September next. Writing to the Rev. M. Gilleran, of Hobart, under date May 13, Dr. Delany stated that within three days he would leave Rome for Milan; then without much delay for Friesburg in Switzerland. Later he will visit Munich, Louvain, Bruges, and London, and then proceed to All Hallows.

His Grace Archbishop Redwood (says the 'Freeman's Journal') arrived in Sydney on Tuesday evening (June 23). His Grace was the guest of the Marist Fathers (St. Patrick's, Church Hill) during his stay in Sydney. He paid a visit to Manly to see his Eminence the Cardinal on the day following his arrival. His Grace was accompanied by the Rev. M. O'Sullivan, S.M., who is visiting Sydney to see his sister (Sister Mary Catherine), at Monte Sant' Angelo Convent, North Sydney, who is dangerously ill.

His Eminence Cardinal Moran contracted a slight chill, which brought on an attack of influenza, at the laying of the foundation stone of the additions to the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Manly, on June 14. He was not well enough to take any part in the Corpus Christi celebrations at the Cathedral, but he had recovered sufficiently to be able to drive to Manly on Sunday, June 21. He viewed the great procession of the Blessed Sacrament in the grounds of St. Patrick's College from one of the balconies of the seminary.

The Rev. R. Collins, pastor of SS. Peter and Paul's, South Melbourne, celebrated the silver jubilee of his ordination to the priesthood on June 24. There was a great gathering of the parishioners in the parish hall in honor of the event. Wherever Father Collins has labored for the past twenty-five years in the Archdiocese of Melbourne he has left behind none but the kindest memories, and has made hosts of friends. Non-Catholic representative men are amongst his warmest friends, and these take pleasure and delight in affording material help in the religious, educational, social, and charitable works in which the rev. gentleman has been engaged, notably at Clifton Hill and South Melbourne. Father Collins is a native of Ballybunion, County Kerry.

Cough! Cough! Cough! - Don't cough. Take TUSSI-CURA. Soothes the inflamed membrane. Soothing and healing. 1s 6d, 2s 6d.

DEAR ME!

Forgotten that SYMINGTON'S COFFEE ESSENCE! Whatever shall I do? Call at the nearest Store and ask. THEY ALL KEEP IT