

Intercolonial

The new church of the Vincentian Fathers, at Malvern, Victoria, which will cost about £10,000, is expected to be ready for dedication towards the end of the present month.

Arrangements are now being completed for the erection of the final wing of the convent of the Sisters of Mercy, Singleton. To date the building has cost £9000, and when completed will have cost £15,000.

The return of the Rev. Mother-General Gertrude, of the Brigidine Order, and Rev. Mother Mary John, of Randwick, Sydney, from Ireland after attending a conference of the Order there, was celebrated with much rejoicing at Aararat and at the central novitiate of the Order in Victoria (Mentone).

Richmond School of Arts was en fete and filled to the doors on the evening of July 16, the occasion being the presentation by the parishioners of St. Monica's (Richmond) and St. Gregory's (Kurrajong) of a purse of 100 sovereigns to their pastor, the Rev. M. E. O'Brien, as a souvenir of his completing 25 years in the priesthood.

Mr. J. W. Horan, the West Australian Rhodes Scholar for 1908, was farewelled by the members of the Christian Brothers' College Old Boys' Association, Perth, in the local Christian Brothers' College, prior to his departure for England. Another student of the college, Mr. A. Brett, was selected as Rhodes Scholar for 1906.

The annual meeting of the Celtic Club, Melbourne, presided over by Dr. O'Donnell, disclosed a very satisfactory state of things. The club begins the financial year with a credit balance of £133. Improvements and entertainments involved an expenditure of £91. Despite that outlay, there is a credit balance of £106 19s 11d.

Mr. John Travers, the only Labor man in the batch of newly-appointed Legislative Councillors in New South Wales, is an Irishman, a native of Cork. For several years he has served the interests of trades unionism as secretary of the Shipwrights' Union of New South Wales. He conducted his union's case for an award before a special court authorised by the Judge in Arbitration with marked ability. Mr. Travers' name has long been associated with the Eight Hours movement.

At the Primary Examination (June, 1908), held in the University (writes the Melbourne correspondent of the 'Freeman's Journal'), the Catholic schools were highly successful—in fact they may call the examination their own, the percentage of passes against all-comers being over 75 per cent. Though the test goes by the modest term of 'primary,' it is sufficiently difficult to show that a thorough grounding has been done in the rudiments of an English course—penmanship being a subject of the syllabus. Just now, when our Catholic schools are on their trial, it is especially gratifying to find so splendid a proof of their efficiency under the religious Orders.

His Grace the Archbishop of Adelaide received the other day from Rome the formal notification that the Very Rev. Archpriest Nevin had been created a Monsignore, or domestic prelate of his Holiness Pius X. The news of this well-merited honor (says the 'Southern Cross') will be received with great gratification by the Monsignore's many friends in Adelaide and the North. The Right Rev. Mgr. Nevin was born in County Roscommon, Ireland, and is an alumnus of All Hallows', Dublin, the Alma Mater of his Grace the Archbishop and Dean Ryan. He arrived in Adelaide on December 20, 1869, the diocese being then administered by Bishop Shiel.

The death is reported of Dr. J. R. McInerney, Fitzroy, which occurred on July 22. The deceased, who was an eminent member of the medical profession in Victoria, was born in Galway in 1852. He studied medicine at the Royal College of Surgeons, Dublin, where he obtained his licentiate. He was gold medalist (Dublin) at King and Queen's College of Physicians, and was as a young man in charge of Jervis street Hospital there. He subsequently obtained his M.D. degree at the Durham University, England. Afterwards he was admitted M.D. at Melbourne University ad eundem. The only relatives he leaves in Australia are his nephews, Dr. Nelly, who lived with him, and Dr. Charles McInerney, of Sydney. Mr. M. McInerney, a brother, is a K.C., practising in Dublin.

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Science Siftings

BY VOLT

What They're Made of.

Pepsin is made of the dried inner lining of the stomach of a calf. Glycerine is a by-product of the soap factory. Magnesia is extracted from a stone called dolomite. Anti-pyrine, the famous fever cure, comes from coal. Syrup of squills is made from a seaweed.

A Remarkable Steel Discovery.

Steel and iron trade circles are at present deeply interested in the new process which has been discovered by an Italian inventor for converting the worst description of iron into high-class steel economically and inexpensively. It is anticipated that the process will work as great a revolution in this industry as did the introduction of that evolved by Bessemer. 'Steelisation' it is called, and by its agency the old process of 'cementation' is dispensed with, thereby involving an enormous saving in labor, time, and cost of production. Arrangements have been completed to enable the inventor to demonstrate the possibilities of his idea in connection with the manufacture of armor-plates, which at present is a tedious and laborious undertaking, occupying several days, but which this inventor claims to accomplish in a few hours, while the armor thus produced is stated to be far and away in advance of any steel that has yet been evolved. Hitherto, the process has been confined to small articles, with which striking success has been secured. Naturally, the process is a secret one.

Asbestos.

Asbestos, which takes its name from a Greek word meaning incombustible, consists chiefly of silica, magnesia, alumina and oxide of iron. It was known to the ancients, who used it as a wrap to preserve the ashes of those whose bodies were consumed on the funeral pyre. The modern demand for this valuable product has produced a supply from many quarters as far apart as the Alps and Canada. Its quality is determined by the length, strength and firmness of its fibres, which can be so manipulated as to resemble wool and to be woven into cloths, ropes and felted fabrics which resist any ordinary flames. As closely-woven cloth or felt it is a valid protection against fire. It is largely used as packing for the pistons of steam engines and as nonconducting coverings for boilers or for fireproof cements. Combined with clay it forms the familiar fuel of our gas stoves, which burns, but is not consumed, and it has proved of very special value in the manufacture of a safety paint and as an indestructible filter for acids or for electric gloves.

The Apple.

The antiquity of the apple is greater than would be imagined by many. It is spoken of by Homer as having existed in the gardens of Alcinoüs and of Laertes, and was a favorite fruit among the Romans, who fully appreciated its dietetic properties. In its wild state it is the common crab-apple, found on hedges, and we have no certain means of ascertaining at what period it was first cultivated and began to acquire the sweetness which is so characteristic in its domesticated state. Owing to its hardy nature and abundance in cropping, it is an especial production of cold climates. Much, however, has been said and written on the general use of apples with but little effect. Excellent cider apples are produced in some of the English counties, but the number of apples used in the cider-making industry is very limited when compared with the vast quantities consumed in the British Isles for dessert purposes. The expression 'dessert purposes' is not sufficiently comprehensive, as apples are largely used in the early morning before the formal breakfast meal, at which time they are supposed to be most beneficial. The idea that an apple taken at night time before retiring to rest is 'leaden' has been proved by experience to be antiquated and erroneous; in fact, it is an excellent refresher and palate-cleaner, which can be used with advantage by those who indulge in smoking.

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