

Intercolonial

Archdeacon Beechinor, of Latrobe (Tasmania), is still suffering from the effects of his accident a couple of months ago, when some of the small bones of his left leg were fractured. He is able to get about with the aid of crutches.

Negotiations have been entered into with the Christian Brothers by his Lordship Dr. Duhig to open schools in Townsville and Mount Morgan. It will be remembered that the late Very Rev. W. M. Walsh, of Townsville, bequeathed £2000 to be devoted towards the erection of a Christian Brothers' School in Townsville.

News was received by the English mail (says the *Argus*) of the death of Mrs. Francis Sarah Cashel Hoey, widow of Mr. Cashel Hoey, for some years secretary to the Agent-General for Victoria in London. Mrs. Cashel Hoey, who was born in 1830, had entered on her 79th year. In early and middle life she was an active literary workwoman, producing a succession of excellent novels, and writing constantly for the *Spectator* and several leading magazines. She was a woman of cultivated and artistic tastes, and possessed that rarity among feminine writers, a literary style. In the early seventies she began 'A Lady's Letter from London' in the *Australasian*, and kept it up fortnightly without a break until within a very few weeks of her death. Mrs. Cashel Hoey was born near Dublin, the daughter of Mr. C. B. Johnston. She was first married in 1846 to Mr. A. M. Stewart, and secondly to Mr. John Cashel Hoey in 1853. Mrs. Hoey was a convert to the Catholic Church.

The Christian Brothers (writes the Brisbane correspondent of the *Catholic Press*) upheld their previous records in the public examinations lately held in connection with the University of Sydney. Their colleges at Nudgee, Gregory Terrace, Charters Towers, Gympie, Maryborough, Ipswich, Toowoomba, and Rockhampton secured 63 passes, while the combined boys' grammar schools got 69. One of the Brothers' boys in Brisbane got three first class passes in mathematics, a pass obtained by but one other candidate out of all who presented themselves. The grammar schools have this in their favor: they have a choice of the cream of the students of the whole State, a choice which, in the case of the Brothers, must be limited, because Catholic schools are in the minority. Another thing, they have more senior students than the Brothers. Then the Government provides them with a generous subsidy, and they have the right of the district scholarships. Despite the fact that the Brothers do as good, if not better, work, they get no help, the only privilege allowed them being that the winner of a State scholarship can, if he elects, take it out at one of their establishments. The Christian Brothers' College, Brisbane, has an average for passes in a variety of subjects which no other school in the State can approach.

The Hon. Nicholas Fitzgerald, K.S.G., M.L.C., Chairman of Committees of the Victorian Legislative Council, passed away at his residence, St. Kilda, on August 17. The deceased was a son of Francis Fitzgerald, a well-known brewer in the West of Ireland, and came of a good family. He was born at Galway in 1829, and entered Trinity College, Dublin, in 1845, where he obtained honors, and in 1849 he gained a first scholarship at Queen's College, Galway, having entered the King's Inns, Dublin, the previous year. He did not, however, prosecute his legal studies, preferring to enter upon a commercial career. He went, in the first place, to Ceylon and India, but the year 1859 saw him arrive in Victoria. His brother Gerald remained in Great Britain, and became Sir Gerald Fitzgerald, K.C.M.G., Accountant-General of the Royal Navy. In 1863 Mr. Fitzgerald married the eldest daughter of Sir John O'Shanassy, who survives him. His eldest son is married to Mina Susan Georgina North, daughter of Lord North. The deceased gentleman was a prominent and respected member of the Catholic Church, and was one of its most munificent supporters. At public gatherings in connection with the Church he was always a leading figure. In the completion of St. Patrick's Cathedral he took a keen interest, and his addresses at the annual meetings in connection with the building fund of that edifice were one of the features of the gathering.

For rheumatism, backache, faceache, earache, neuralgia, and other muscular pains nothing can equal WITCH'S OIL (registered).

Science Siftings

BY 'VOLT'

Seasoning Timber.

Oak timber loses about one-fifth of its weight in seasoning and about one-third of its weight in becoming dry. Gradual drying and seasoning are considered the most favorable to the durability and strength of timber. Kiln drying is particularly serviceable for boards and pieces of small dimensions, and unless performed slowly is apt to cause cracks and impair the strength of the wood. If timber of large dimensions be immersed in water for some weeks, it is improved, and is less liable to warp and crack in seasoning.

Something About Silk.

Common as is silk nowadays, in earlier times it was a most precious material. When it was first brought into Europe silk commanded three times its weight in gold, and so valuable was it deemed that in the reign of Tiberius a law was passed forbidding it to all save noble ladies and prohibiting men from wearing it on the ground of its effeminacy. So unusual was it even 200 years later for a man to wear silk that every historian of the time of Heliogabalus noted the fact that the emperor had a silk gown. For ages it continued at an abnormally high price. Charlemagne in the year 780 could send to King Offa of Mercia no more valuable a present than two silk coats.

Habits of Seals.

The habits of seals are very interesting. The very young seal is helpless in the water until he is taught by his mother to swim. She takes him into the water daily on her fin and dumps him in, and when he gets tired of floundering about places him on her fin again and returns to her camp. When the young seals are well grown, they suddenly disappear with their mothers and the bull seals. No one knows where they go, and their return is equally as sudden as their departure. The bulls are the first to put in an appearance at the camping ground. When they arrive, they commence at once to prepare a camp for their mates, which they stake off, and for which they fight until they die. In the meantime the female seals remain quite a distance from land, floating lazily on the water and seemingly having a good time.

A Lake that Changes Color.

A small lake in Seaside, Monterey County, California, changes its color four times every year (says the *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*). To all appearances it is like any other small lake, and there seems to be no reason why it should be such a remarkable sheet of water. It is prettily situated, full of fish and water fowl, and when in its normal condition the water is clear and sweet. It has one peculiarity besides its variable color, however. The water is never stagnant, despite the fact that there is no apparent outlet to the lake. The color changes are very pronounced, and are in four distinct shades—yellow, green, red and dark grey that has the appearance of black at times. After each change the water regains its normal clear appearance. The color is in the water, and is not the result of reflection from the sky. This has been proved beyond doubt by the fact that the color remains the same for days at a time, regardless of the condition of the clouds. The four colors mentioned are the ones always seen, and they always occur in the order named, the disturbance, if such it may be called, covering a period of from six weeks to two months in July and August of each year. Old residents of Seaside assert that the phenomenon is a regular annual event, and that it is always followed by the death of a large number of fish in the lake. No explanation of the peculiar condition has ever been attempted by scientists, although several scientific men of note have studied the lake carefully. The prevailing opinion among the inhabitants of the section is that the lake is of volcanic origin, and that the changes are due to subterranean disturbances which produce chemical changes in the water.

'Just for the day I'll be away,'
 Remarked his wife last Saturday.
 'If every dog must have his day,
 Then why not every cat her day?
 I'll take Woods' Great Peppermint Cure,
 Because that's indispensable,
 And ma will go with me, I'm sure
 You ought to think that's sensible.'
 (He did!)

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