

Intercolonial

The old-age pensioners in New South Wales total 21,685, who received pensions last year to the amount of £503,030.

His Eminence Cardinal Moran, speaking at the annual meeting in aid of the Westmead Boys' Home, said: 'I regret to say that the statesmen of the present day do not seem to recognize the work that is being carried on. I see by the published reports that almost every sort of institution receives public aid from the Government except the Catholic institutions. If they looked to the Ashfield Infants' Home they saw the additional grants made year by year by the Government. Almost in the same way the Women's Hospital and the Children's Hospital received public aid. But,' said his Eminence, 'not a single one of the Catholic institutions receives one penny from the State. I think this is trampling on the rights of the minority.—(Hear, hear.) The Catholic body is a minority in the State, but such a minority as a body has its rights, every minority has its rights and it is the duty of those in the majority for the time being to respect those rights.—(Hear, hear.) I am sure no one will contradict the statement that there is not a single one of the Catholic charities which is not entitled to State aid.'

In its annual report, the Superior Council of Australasia of the St. Vincent de Paul Society states:—The twenty new conferences are as follow: In the State of New South Wales, 10; being 5 in the suburbs of Sydney, at St. Joseph's College (Hunter's Hill), and at Penshurst, Woollahra, Ryde, and Belmore; and 5 in the country towns of Lithgow, West Maitland, Hamilton, Armidale, and Albury. In the State of Victoria, 3, at Melbourne—viz., Port Melbourne and Camberwell. In the State of South Australia, 2—at the country towns of Kadina and Wallaroo. In the State of Queensland, 1—at Charters Towers. In the Dominion of New Zealand, 11, being—under the Particular Council of Christchurch 3, at Woolston; in the Archdiocese of Wellington 6, of which 2 are at Thorndon and Newtown, in the City of Wellington, and 4 at the country towns of New Plymouth, Masterton, Hastings, and Petone; in the diocese of Auckland 3, at St. Patrick's Cathedral, Newtown, and Newmarket, in the City of Auckland; and in the diocese of Dunedin 1, at St. Joseph's Cathedral, in the City of Dunedin. The special event of the year is the marked progress in New Zealand. At the close of 1906 the conferences in that Dominion numbered 5; at the end of 1907 there were 16.'

The announcement that, at the request of his Grace the Archbishop of Hobart, the Holy Father had been pleased to confer on the popular Administrator of St. Mary's Cathedral, Hobart, the dignity of Domestic prelate, was received with much pleasure not alone in Tasmania, but throughout the Commonwealth and New Zealand. The Right Rev. Mgr. Gilleran is one of the most popular and beloved priests in the Commonwealth, and his kindly, genial, and hospitable nature has endeared him to all who have had the pleasure of his acquaintance. He is greatly beloved by the people amongst whom he has labored so zealously for many years. The dignity which has been conferred on him by his Holiness, as well as that which has come to the Rev. Dr. O'Mahony, to which editorial reference was made in our last issue, are well deserved, and we hope the Monsignore will be long spared to the people among whom he labors with such zeal and devotion. Writing of the honor conferred on the Administrator of St. Mary's Cathedral, the Hobart correspondent of the *Monitor* says:—Monsignor Gilleran has been so many years with us that he has become quite an institution in our midst. Since his ordination over thirty years ago he has lived almost continuously with us, except a short time spent in Campbell Town and LaTrobe. Every good work has had his help. He is as big a favorite with the non-Catholic community as he is with his own flock. He is known to everyone, and he himself knows everyone in Hobart, and many a time, without ostentation or display, that knowledge has led him to do the kindly act that befits the Christian priest as mercy befits the sceptred monarch. Such men as he are the salt of the earth: they honor the purple as the purple honoreth them.'

Men without opinions are also usually without character. On the other hand, men with opinions that cannot be changed are not men at all.

The St. George jam is locally made, and from the best New Zealand fruit. It is perfectly pure, and has a delicious flavor....

Science Siftings

BY 'VOLT'

The House Fly.

That the house fly must be exterminated was the resolution passed at the recent annual Congress of Public Health. As many as 100,000 bacilli have been found on a fly's legs, said Sir James Crichton Browne. It is said that a cubic centimetre of Thames water contains 13,454 microbes. A bit of old farmyard manure is said to contain 1,250,000 bacteria. The men who devote themselves to counting these bacilli and bacteria have our sympathy; but how is it done?

The Orange Tree.

The orange tree flowers during nearly the whole of the summer. The fruit takes two years to arrive at maturity, so that for several months in the year a healthy tree exhibits every stage, from the flower bud to the ripe fruit. This gives the tree its rich appearance during the principal fruit months, when the emerald tints of the unripe and golden hues of the mature fruit, mingle with the dark foliage of the leaves, while the bright blossoms present a charming contrast.

Why the Ocean Doesn't Freeze.

If the ocean did not have salt it would freeze somewhat more readily than it does now, but there would be no very marked difference. The ocean is prevented from freezing not so much by its salt as by its size and by its commotion. On account of its size, large portions of it extend into warm climates at all seasons, and by reason of its great depth it is a vast store-house of heat. Its currents distribute much warm water among the cold.

Hail Storms.

A fall of hail to the average depth of one inch over a region four miles wide and eighteen miles long is a fall of 167,340,000 cubic feet of ice weighing nearly 1,000,000 tons. The average elevation from which it fell may be taken as 5000 feet. All the mass that fell must previously have been raised to that level; that is 1,000,000 tons must have been raised 5000 feet or 7,000,000 foot tons of work must have been done, which corresponds to the work of an engine of 1,300,000 horse power working for five hours. When the hail fell the force of gravity did this identical amount of work.

Slippers Made of Paper.

Some of the European hotels are introducing a novelty by furnishing each guest on his arrival with a pair of paper slippers, and the plan is expected to contribute largely toward the cleanliness of the hosteleries. The slippers are cheap. They are made wholly of paper, the soles of pasteboard, and the rest is made of white or brown paper, stitched with heavy cotton to prevent tearing. There are various qualities. The most expensive is made of an extra good quality of white paper; the cheapest is made of common brown straw paper. These paper slippers are so cheap that new ones can be furnished to each guest. An attempt is being made also to introduce them in hospitals and public institutions, as they would add much to cleanliness and form another preventive of contagion, since each pair could be thrown away or destroyed as soon as the wearer has done with them.

Suspension Bridges.

Suspension bridges, some of them of considerable length, were common in Peru in the days of the Incas. They were formed of cables of twisted osiers passed over wooden supports and stretched from bank to bank, then bound together with smaller ropes and covered with bamboos. The road from Cuzco to Quito is still noted for frail bridges of this sort which are in constant use and span deep chasms. The Chinese also, according to Kircher, have for centuries been familiar with the 'suspension' theory, and have constructed chain bridges in which the weight of the roadway is supported by the tension of the chains. The first iron suspension bridge in Europe was built over the Tees, near Middleton, in 1741, for the use of miners. Two chains were stretched in a straight line, steadied by ties from the banks below, and the roadway for foot passengers was supported to the chains. The modern suspension system practically dates from 1816, when bridges, both over 100 feet in length, were successfully completed at Galashiels and Peebles.

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