

Intercolonial

During the past few months the Ballarat diocese has lost by death no less than four priests—viz., Father Guiloyle, Father McAuley, Father Lynch, and Father Ferris.

According to the statistical abstract for the quarter ending 30th September, the population of Victoria on that date was 1,269,060, of whom 637,356 were males and 631,704 females.

Mr. George Halpin, who has been re-elected president of the Geelong branch of the Catholic Young Men's Society, has had a unique record in connection with the society, having occupied office continuously since 1889.

Dulwich Hill, in the archdiocese of Sydney, has been created a new parish, and takes in portion of the Lewisham, Marrickville, and Canterbury parishes (says the *Catholic Press*). The Rev. Father William Hayden has been appointed first pastor. His charge at Albion Park has been transferred to the Rev. Father Peter Power, whose place at Gosford will be taken by the Rev. Father John Egan, who administered Mount Carmel during the absence of Father Collins in Ireland.

The recent ordinations at Manly (says the *Advocate*), when eleven young Australians were ordained by his Eminence Cardinal Moran, prove that the missionary vocation is gaining ground in Australia. One of the students, Rev. M. O'Connor, went to be ordained at Sale by the Bishop of the diocese, thus completing the number of the original apostolic college, twelve. As many as twenty-four priests with the Cardinal imposed hands on the candidates. Despite his advanced age, eighty, his Eminence showed no fatigue throughout the long ceremony.

The cost of the maintenance of the 108 Catholic primary schools of the archdiocese of Melbourne for the year ended September 30, was £24,840. Two new schools were built during the year at a cost of over £1600. On substantial alterations, repairs, and furniture a sum of £1976 was spent. The total outlay for the year on maintenance, alterations, repairs, and new buildings was £28,425. The total number of children attending the schools during the year was 20,660. The number of teachers (exclusive of 30 visiting) was 424, of whom 251 were members of religious Orders.

The Hon. John Meagher, in a speech at the opening of the Christian Brothers' Novitiate, Strathfield, said he knew some ex-students of well Catholic colleges and convents who would not carry a Catholic paper without first taking off the cover lest their Protestant friends might see a Catholic paper in their hands. Children brought up in such schools—girls as well as boys—swelled the ranks of weak Catholics, the Friday meat-eating Catholics, and were no good for God or man. They were not educated at all, for their characters were not formed, and the highest type of character in man or woman was the true Catholic character, which did not attempt to compromise between truth and error.

Rev. Mother Mary Xavier Dooley, of the Presentation Convent, Launceston, recently celebrated her silver jubilee as a religious. Her friends and pupils gathered around and honored her enthusiastically. A combined entertainment was given in her honor by the different city schools and some of her admirers. It was a striking demonstration. An address was presented by the friends and pupils, past and present, of the Launceston and outlying convent schools, also a purse of sovereigns. Monsignor Beechinor, who presided, replied eloquently on Mother Xavier's behalf. In return, the Rev. Mother and Sisters gave a social evening to the members of the jubilee committee and their friends.

Major the Hon. J. V. O'Loughlin, V.D., who has just been awarded the Colonial Auxiliary Forces' officers' long-service decoration, V.D., has had 25 years' service in the military forces of the State (says the *Adelaide Southern Cross*). Seven years he served in the ranks, private, corporal, and sergeant. In 1890 he received his first commission as Lieutenant in the Militia, and has worked up to his present rank of Major, for which he passed his theoretical and practical examination in 1903. He was instrumental in raising and commanded the Irish Corps till the end of last year. Major O'Loughlin has risen from the bottom to the head of the military forces, having been Minister of Defence for four years. He holds a commission signed by himself in that capacity.

Our readers in Canterbury who contemplate making Christmas presents should not miss seeing the novel and varied stock of gifts on exhibition at Messrs. W. Strange and Co.'s, High street, Christchurch....

Science Siftings

BY 'VOLT'

Purifying Salt.

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Heating and Cooling Cast Iron.

The increase of volume from the heating and cooling of cast iron has been the subject of many tests, and it has been shown that the swelling may amount to as much as forty per cent. After heating in a gas furnace twenty-seven times, the highest temperature reached being 1450deg. F., a bar originally one inch square and 14.8 inches long was found to have grown to one and one-eighth inch square and sixteen and one-half inches long. This effect is suggested as an explanation of the trouble given by cast-iron fittings for superheated steam, which produces the same alternative heating and cooling.

The Cape Elk.

Among the rapidly disappearing wild animals is the eland, or Cape elk, which is a native of South Africa and one of the largest of the antelopes, and is especially prized as furnishing the best of all venison. Schemes for preservation include a plan for domesticating it and making it perform an important share of the farm work of Cape Colony. The beast is easily captured, thrives under the new conditions, and in an experiment in the McChewke district of Mashonaland two eland spans were used for a considerable time for drawing waggons, proving docile and tractable. Healthy calves were born in captivity. The animal seems to be proof against the common diseases of farm stock, and its flesh is desirable for beef and its hide for leather.

The Katipo.

To the katipo belongs the remarkable distinction of being the only venomous creature in the whole scheme of animal life in New Zealand. Professor Drummond, the well-known naturalist, of Auckland, likens it to the ferocious pirate of olden days amongst companies of peaceful traders, for the katipo bites, and his bite is always poisonous and often deadly. It is generally followed by great pain, lassitude, and nervous depression. In the case of a stout, strong man bitten near Auckland some years ago the poison, when it became absorbed in the circulation, affected the heart, brain, and nervous system, almost causing a faint. Maoris state that large numbers of their children have succumbed to the effects of the bite. A European boy, who was bitten at Maketu, in the Bay of Plenty, was ill for three months before he rallied, and three more months passed before he recovered; and a Maori girl, bitten at Waihi, near the same place, died after six weeks' suffering. Nature appears to have been in a capricious mood when she evolved the katipo, for he is an extremely handsome entity. His body is jet-black, with the appearance of highly-burnished velvet, while from the head to the other extremity runs a series of geometrically accurate diamond-shaped patches of a vivid light red. This, however, is only when the katipo reaches maturity. In infancy he is white, with insignificant black spots and only a suggestion of red in the shape of a blurred line. In adolescence he becomes yellowish, and the black spots and the kind of red become more defined. In the next stage there is the burnished black body and the red diamonds, but the latter have a fringe of yellow. In the adult the yellow fringe disappears. And at this point comes a disillusionment, for Professor Drummond now reveals the fact that the katipo, after all, is merely a spider—a spider whose body is no larger than a pea, and whose legs, fully extended, measure but three-quarters of an inch across. Small though he is, however, the katipo is heartily dreaded by those who know him and his wickedness. Unfortunately, there are many who do not know him, and who, with that queer feeling—perhaps not quite superstitious, but very near it—of reluctance to kill a spider, go so far as to let the insect crawl over their hands as a 'luck-bringer'. To this delusion, too, the katipo's unusual beauty lends dangerous color.

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