

Science Siftings

By 'VOLT.'

Poland's Salt Mines.

Wieliczka, eight miles from Cracow, possesses the most wonderful salt mines in the world. They have been worked since the thirteenth century, and the workings now cover an area of twenty-four square miles. Many of the miners live permanently underground, where they have built a wonderful town, with streets, squares, public buildings, and tramways, which, together with the crystal vaults, sparkling aisles, and fairy palaces of the mines, have formed the background of numerous romances. The annual output of the Wieliczka mines is about 60,000 tons.

Heating Miles of Orchards.

One of the greatest feats of artificial outdoor heating ever attempted was resorted to by some fruit growers in Colorado, to save a crop of fruit estimated at £600,000 in value. Thousands upon thousands of smudge-pots were scattered through the orchards over twenty-seven miles of territory, and the raising of temperature that resulted effectually dispelled the unexpected frost. The smudge-pots used were of many different types, some burning oil and others coal. The temperature in the orchards was actually raised 8deg and 9deg. over the entire twenty-seven miles of territory, as many as 300,000 smudge-pots being used.

The Best Hour for Work.

It is a curious fact in psychology that nobody can stay at the same mental and physical level for 24 hours together. In the morning you are more matter-of-fact, for instance, than later in the day. It is in the morning that the best brain work is done, too—brain work of the sort that requires industry and clear thinking. And it is about 11 in the morning that our body reaches its highest point of energy. In other words, you are stronger, though almost imperceptibly, at 11 in the morning than at 3 in the afternoon. You reach that highest point twice in the day, for about 5 in the afternoon the muscular energy has risen again. But from 5 onward it declines steadily all through the evening, and on till between 2 and 3 a.m.

Tall Men or Short?

Dr. M. S. Pembrey, lecturer on physiology at Guy's Hospital, opened an interesting discussion recently at the Royal Sanitary Institute, London, on the question of tall versus short men for the Army. A typical Scot (said Dr. Pembrey), would be considered a tall Welshman, in support of his contention that a man might be considered tall when his height was four or five inches greater than that of the average of his countrymen. The difference in height between a tall and a short man was due chiefly to the longer legs of the former, but height depended upon the correlated activity of certain glands which produced internal secretions and extremes. The essential organs, Dr. Pembrey added, were in the head and trunk, and these were often better developed in the short than in the tall man, the weight of the brain being relatively greater in the short man and the reaction time not so long. Tall men of full proportions, he contended, were heavy and often slow, and there were strong physiological reasons for the greater agility and activity of the small man, who did not suffer from the mechanical disadvantages of height and weight. The small man had a greater capacity for work, endurance, and stronger resistance to disease. Judging from the fighting capacity of tall and short races and from the fighting capacity of tall and short men of the same race, Dr. Pembrey summed up in favor of the short man, though he modified his remarks by warning his hearers to beware of the danger of rushing to extremes.

The Boy Proof Watch at 5/- is a watch that no man need be ashamed of, especially when it will keep time to a tick. You should see them at Smith and Laing's. Invercargill.

Greymouth

(From our own correspondent.)

The usual weekly meeting of the St. Columba Club was held on Monday, April 26. The president (Mr. H. F. Doogan) occupied the chair, and there was a good attendance of members. The president reported having made final arrangements with the president of the Trinity Club for the annual inter-club senior debate, which is to be held on May 21. Mr. F. D. Sargeant was appointed judge, and submitted the following subject:—'That the jury system should be abolished from our law courts.' The following were selected to represent St. Columba—Messrs. C. Rasmussen (leader), A. J. Fraser, F. Hargreaves, and H. Millard. The St. Columba representatives are to speak in the affirmative. The following were appointed a committee to carry out the winter socials—Messrs. M. Renai, F. Hargreaves, J. Deere, and H. Millard. A very enjoyable evening was brought to a conclusion by an extempore debate, on the origin and the consequences of the war. All members participated, and some very original and instructive addresses were delivered.

The annual meeting of the Marist Old Boys' Football Club was held in the St. Columba Club Hall, over 30 members being present. Mr. T. O'Donnell (president), who occupied the chair, congratulated the members on the very satisfactory results of the club's first season. Three teams had been entered in the competition, the fourth grade team being the most successful of the three, as they succeeded in winning the shield. The senior team also gave a very creditable display, and, for a young team, covered themselves with glory. He hoped that the coming season would be even more successful than the last, and that members would persevere in their training. The election of officers resulted as follows:—Patron, Very Rev. Dean Carew; president, Mr. T. O'Donnell; vice-presidents—Messrs. J. Deere, E. M. Sheedy, A. Beban, J. Giesekeing, J. King, T. Fogarty, J. M. Sullivan, M. Fitzgerald, P. Blanchfield, H. F. Doogan, D. Shannahan, J. Kennedy; captain, Mr. T. J. O'Callaghan; secretary, Mr. T. Hogan; treasurer, Mr. T. O'Callaghan; committee—Messrs. C. O'Neill, H. Bowman, P. Hogan; delegates—Messrs. J. Heffernan, P. Hogan, and M. Keating; selectors—Messrs. T. O'Donnell, J. Heffernan, and W. Harris. It was decided to again nominate three teams for the competitions. It was decided to make the following players, who volunteered for active service, life members of the club—Messrs. A. McMillan, J. Le Motte, T. Mullins, J. Elliott, J. Bullman, and W. Bowman.

The following letter has been received by Miss Winifred O'Neill (Convent of Mercy, Greymouth) from Madam Louise Harris, the donor of the Victor Harris Memorial gold medal, which is annually awarded to the candidate who obtains the highest marks in New Zealand in the local centre examination of the Royal Academy of Music, London: 'It gives me much pleasure to forward to you the Victor Harris Memorial Medal, awarded to you by the Associated Board for violin. I heartily congratulate you on your success in the study of that most beautiful instrument, and trust the winning of the medal (which is given in memory of my talented little son, who died in London while studying at the R.A.M.) will spur you on to further artistic efforts. It is not often medals find their way to the West Coast; therefore you must feel highly gratified at your success, and that you may meet with always the same through your musical career is the wish of yours faithfully,—LOUISE HARRIS.'

PILES.

Can be instantly relieved and quickly cured by the use of BAXTER'S PILE OINTMENT. This excellent remedy has been a boon to hundreds of sufferers all over New Zealand. Sent post free on receipt of 2/6 in stamps, or postal notes, by—

WALTER BAXTER : CHEMIST, TIMARU.

JAMES C. DROMGOOL, Solicitor

IMPERIAL BUILDINGS 44 QUEEN STREET AUCKLAND. Money to Lend on Good Securities at Lowest Rates. : G L L L L