

Intercolonial

His Excellency Archbishop Corretti returned to Sydney from Melbourne on Saturday, April 24, and brought back with him memories of a royal reception.

A generous bequest from the estate of the late Norman Shelley, the well-known merchant, who died in Sydney on January 17, was £1000 to St. Vincent's Hospital. Deceased's estate was sworn in at £191,570.

The Right Rev. Monsignor Frederick Byrne, V.G. (Adelaide), celebrated recently the 55th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. His health has been indifferent for some time, but latest reports state that his condition is improving slightly.

Mr. Henry Verbrugger, a naturalised British subject of Belgian birth, has been appointed Director of the State Conservatorium of Music, Sydney. The new director is 42 years of age, and has spent 20 years following the profession of music in Great Britain. In all 191 applications had been received for the position.

His Grace Archbishop O'Reilly, of Adelaide, said to a newspaper representative the other day: 'I pay everyone as I go. My one ambition now is to save enough money to meet the expenses of my funeral and my tombstone when I am dead. The inscription on my tomb will be simply a request for prayers for my soul.'

Very Rev. Dean Bourke, who has had charge for the last twelve or thirteen years of the parish of Townsville, has been appointed Vicar-General of Rockhampton, the dignity carrying with it the title of Monsignor. He was educated at St. Patrick's College, Manly. He recently returned from a trip to Ireland and the Continent of Europe.

Appreciation of the abilities of the Very Rev. M. J. O'Reilly, formerly President of St. Stanislaus' College, Bathurst, and now in Ireland, has prompted the Fellows of St. John's College, with the sanction of the ecclesiastical authorities, to offer the vacant Rectorship of St. John's College to the distinguished Vincentian (says the *Freeman's Journal*).

There died on April 23 the Rev. Mother Mary Ignatius Harnett, after an illness lasting a year. Mother Mary Ignatius had been Prioress of the Benedictine Monastery, Subiaco, Rydalmere, for twelve and a-half years, and was greatly beloved. She was a daughter of the late Dr. Richard Harnett, and had reached the age of seventy two years.

The estate of the late Mr. T. Searle has been sworn not to exceed £495,000 (says the Adelaide *Southern Cross*). The donations to Catholic charities are as follows:—St. Vincent de Paul's Orphanage, Goodwood, £400; Catholic Female Refuge, Fullarton, £400; St. Joseph's Orphanage, Largs Bay, £400; Father Healy's Boys' Shelter, £400; St. Ignatius' branch of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, Queen street, Norwood, £400.

Over 1500 people gathered in the grounds of the new Mater Misericordiae Public Hospital, North Sydney, on Sunday afternoon, April 25, to witness the opening ceremony by the State Governor. The fine institution, which cost nearly £14,000, is for the accommodation of 80 patients, and is a model hospital, splendidly built and equipped (says the *Catholic Press*). The smaller hospital, which the new building supplants, began in a humble way some nine years ago; but as the district expanded it was found necessary to find more accommodation for the work of the Sisters of Mercy, so that they could receive and treat men in addition to women and children. Prior to the opening, £1100 had been collected for this object, and at the opening ceremony the sum of £325 was donated.

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Science Siftings

By 'VOLT.'

Making Paper Out of Wood.

Making paper from wood, the discovery of Dr. Hill, of Augusta, Maine, is one of the world's most important industries. It has revolutionised the paper trade, and made it possible for a great newspaper to be sold at a halfpenny. An old hornets' nest caused Dr. Hill to make the discovery. His friend and neighbor, James G. Blaine, had told him that there was not enough cotton and rags in the world to supply the newspapers and other publications with their raw material. That was about forty years ago, when paper was about 1s 3d a pound. Dr. Hill took a hornets' nest to the superintendent of a near-by paper factory and asked him, 'Why can't you make paper like that?' They sat down together, took the nest apart, analysed it carefully, and decided that if a hornet could make paper out of wood, man ought to be able to do as much. The doctor discovered that the hornet first chewed the wood into fine pulp. They decided to make machinery and water do what the hornet's mouth did. Such was the beginning of the wood-pulp industry.

The Printing Telegraph.

The time will soon arrive when a New Zealander's invention will enable the operator of a typewriter in the Wellington Post Office to actuate in Christchurch, Auckland, or any other distant city, a machine which will turn out a type-written copy of the message without further human attention. This invention, by Mr. D. Murray, formerly a journalist engaged in Auckland, has been adopted by the British Post Office and the Western Union and Western Electric Telegraph Companies of America for use between points where heavy traffic has to be handled. The chief advantage of the printing telegraph apparatus is its remarkable multiplex feature, which enables the carrying capacity of a circuit to be largely increased even in companion with the work of the quadruplex method, under which four messages can be sent simultaneously over one wire. A set of Murray quadruple printing apparatus has been ordered for Auckland, and one for Christchurch. Two similar sets have been ordered for Wellington, one to work Auckland and the other to Christchurch. They are expected to be completed in London ready for despatch to New Zealand about the middle of July, and would have been ready earlier but for a delay due to the war.

Discovery of Calcium Carbide.

Calcium carbide has had a curious history. The acetylene gas which it produces holds a position which is said to be about unique in the history of useful discoveries. Many people at the present time (remarks the *Catholic Advocate*) seem to consider that our knowledge of this brilliantly beautiful illuminant is of modern date, while all that the last decade has brought forth has been little more than the discovery of how to produce the gas on a commercial scale and details as to its properties and behaviour in everyday use. Curiously enough, Dublin has the proud distinction of having blazoned to the scientific world this very important discovery. At a meeting of the Royal Dublin Society in March, 1836, Edmund Davy, Professor of Chemistry to that body, first described some of its properties, and in the autumn of the same year he introduced his discovery to the British Association at their Bristol meeting. He explained how, in attempting to procure potassium by strongly heating a mixture of calcined tartar and charcoal in a large iron bottle, he obtained a black substance which readily decomposed water and yielded a gas which, on examination, proved to be a new compound of carbon and hydrogen. From the brilliancy with which the gas burned in contact with the atmosphere it was, in Professor Davy's opinion, admirably adapted for the purposes of artificial light 'if it could be procured at a cheap rate.'

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