

directly as the mass and inversely as the square of the distance, is questioned by Prof. H. Seeliger, of Munich, who is the first to offer evidence that the law must be exact or not universal. This has arisen from an attempt to extend the law mathematically to infinite space. Prof. Seeliger was forced to assume either that the sum-total of the masses of the universe is infinitely great, in which case Newton's law under-rates the attractive forces, or that the Newtonian law is strictly exact, in which case the infinite spaces of the universe cannot be filled with matter of finite density. He is forced to conclude that Newton's great law is inexact.

The suggestion having been made that typhoid fever may be spread through the direct watering of vegetables with sewage, Dr. Paul Remlinger has made experiments to determine whether rabbits and rats could be infected by feeding them on vegetables soaked with typhoid bacilli. In both cases typhoid fever was induced—only, however, when the doses of bacilli were large and frequent.

A new German antiseptic, called protargol, is a compound of silver and protein. A one per cent solution of anthrax and enteric fever.

### THE AUSTRALISIAN MISSION.

P. O. Newtown, Sydney, N. S. W., Australia, Dec. 15, 1897.

There has been some changes in the Australian mission of late. Some time ago the Australian mission was divided into what is now known as the Australian and New Zealand missions. Elder E. F. Richards, now of the New Zealand mission, formerly presided over both, but Andrew Smith Jr., has been appointed president over the Australian mission. November 18th we were privileged to meet our former president Elder Richards, and on the 19th Elder Castleton, clerk of the New Zealand mission, arrived from Auckland, their visit to this mission being to assist Elder Smith in making out new records, etc. for the new mission.

A day or two was occupied at this work, and on the Sunday following, Elders Richards, Smith, W. C. Castleton, W. G. Park, A. E. Hubbard, A. C. Lambert and J. M. Ritchie met with the Sunday School, after which an Elders' meeting was held, in which we enjoyed much of the Spirit of the Lord. All made a few remarks and bore testimony of God's goodness towards them and the knowledge they have of the truthfulness of the message we present to the world. We then received some encouraging and instructive remarks from Elders Richards and Smith. At 2:30 a sacrament and testimony meeting was held. At the meeting in the evening valuable instructions were given. On the Tuesday following the presiding Elders and Elder Castleton started for Brisbane, Queensland. While there they held a conference and then returned to Sydney, New South Wales. They reported an enjoyable visit to that part of the mission.

On the Sunday following a conference was held in the Erskineville Assembly Room. The Sunday School convened at 9 a. m., Elders Richards and Smith occupied most of the time in addressing the school. The first meeting of the conference convened at 10:30, the speakers being Wm. G. Park on Church organization, and Alma E. Hubbard on general and individual salvation.

The next meeting was a sacrament meeting held at 2:30. On this occasion one person having been baptized, was confirmed a member of the Church.

The names of the General Authorities were presented before the people, also Andrew Smith Jr., as President of the Australian mission; J. M. Ritchie as

president of the N. S. W. conference; Alma C. Lambert, Wm. G. Park and Alma E. Hubbard as traveling Elders, and all were unanimously sustained in their respective callings. Elders Lambert and J. M. Ritchie were the speakers. The evening meeting convened at 7 p. m., Elder Richards spoke on Faith and Works and Elder Smith on Baptism and Salvation for the Dead.

Among changes that were made Elder Clegg was called from Brisbane, and Elder Carr from Melbourne to take up their labors in Adelaide, South Australia. We had times of rejoicing together. Elder Richards and Clerk Castleton returned to New Zealand; Elders Park and Hubbard to Goulburn, and Elders Smith, Lambert and Ritchie are still in Sydney rejoicing in having the privilege of carrying the Gospel message to the people of this part of the world.

Elder Hubbard wrote a letter to the "News" and it was published Sept. 11th. He sent the name of John Waite and it appeared as John Naite. Mr. Waite is anxious to know of the whereabouts of his three uncles who joined the Church and emigrated from Gosherton Clow, near Spaulding, Lincolnshire, England. If this should find any of the Waite Brothers and they desire to correspond with their brother in New South Wales, Australia, please address Elder Alma E. Hubbard, G. P. O. Goulburn, N. S. W., Australia.

J. M. RITCHIE.  
Pres. of N. S. W. Conference

### TERRIFIC WIND STORM.

Fort Smith, Ark., Jan. 18, 1898.  
Tuesday, January 11th, about 11 o'clock p. m., there was great excitement among the citizens of this little city, caused by a visit from one of the most terrific cyclones that has ever been known to call upon the good people of Arkansas.

Early in the evening the atmosphere was close and hot, with large black clouds hanging in the northwest, accompanied with a continued streak of lightning, until the wind had done its worst. It struck the city in the southwestern part, near the Poteau river bridge, passing through the city on a northeast course, sweeping everything in its path, causing destruction and devastation on all sides, with a loss of fifty lives and over five hundred injured, some of them seriously. The first thing that was in its way, was the beautiful national cemetery with its majestic old oaks, pines and magnolia trees, towering heavenward, some of them having reached the grand old age of seventy-five years. Scattered here and there among the little white headstones in memory of the brave soldier boys, were lovely marble and granite monuments, erected to the memory of the generals and officers of the army by kind and loving hands, but the destruction of them was nearly complete.

A two story frame hotel was demolished beyond recognition. There was a number of lodgers in it, but all escaped with slight injuries. The wind tackled the cotton yards next, handling bales of cotton weighing from 450 to 550 pounds like Fitzsimmons would handle a boy, pulling cotton out of the bales and scattering it broadcast to the four winds, making everything look as if there had been a snowstorm. Then the destroyer fell upon the main part of the city, finding large structures of stone and brick in its way. It picked them up and dashed them to the ground as an enraged boy would an egg, and each one collapsed, carrying death and destruction along; and to make the catastrophe more appalling, some of the stores and hotels caught fire and the sight became sickening to

many of the strong and willing ones that were at work trying to release the imprisoned, for within a few feet of the glaring blazes could be seen men, women and children pined by timbers and brick, crying out with pain and fear to be released from their prison and torment.

The course from now on led through the most thickly settled and beautiful portion of the city. Where there were handsome residences the day before, there are now only large piles of broken boards and furniture. We stop to gaze upon the pile of rubbish, the place where once the beautiful edifice of the Central Methodist church stood. On Sunday night, the 9th inst., it was the privilege of Elder Alma V. Reese and myself to have a conspicuous seat upon the front bench and listen to one of the most abusive and vindictive talks delivered by Rev. Fletcher, pastor of the church. When he was through Elder Reese asked permission to make a reply, but with words of scorn the minister refused to allow us the use of the building. At that time he did not think that the beautiful edifice "without any body or parts to it," and built upon a slippery foundation, would soon take tumble out of sight. Nevertheless it was a fact, and there would seem to be ground for the inference that the God that he ridiculed saw fit to pour out upon Mr. Fletcher's building His wrath and level it to the ground. Rev. Fletcher's own residence was shaken up considerably and the gentleman did not escape injury.

The pride of every citizen of Fort Smith, the high school building, built of St. Louis pressed brick at a cost of \$75,000, received damages to the extent of \$20,000. The property loss is over half a million dollars.

The day before, Monday, January 10th, my colleagues and myself finished making a thorough canvass of the city and its additions, leaving no stone unturned in warning the people, by holding meetings upon the streets and in private houses, giving everyone a chance to accept or reject the Gospel, whereby they could lay claim to the protection and blessings of God. The work in the city was done by Elders who traveled without purse and scrip, going without food for 72 hours at one time, sleeping upon the hard floors, with newspapers under them in order to protect their clothes. The work throughout this mission is being accomplished in like manner and is according to the Savior's commandment.

Elder Reese and myself looked after the injured of our friends, attending to their immediate wants. They have the heartfelt sympathy of each Elder and Latter-day Saint.

FRANK L. COPENING,  
President West Arkansas Conference.

### AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Washington, Jan. 27.—The provision in the Indian appropriation bill for the allotment of the lands of the Uncompahgre Indian reservation in Utah and the lease of the gilsonite lands was ruled out of the bill on a point of order made by Mr. King. (Dem., Utah.)

Tacoma, Wash., Jan. 27.—Russia Greatly desires to find means of communication between her north coast and Siberia by crossing the Arctic sea. To this end she will make some experiment next summer. According to advices received by the steamer Braemar, Admiral Makaroff of the Russian navy has announced his belief that it is possible to travel to Siberia by water across the Arctic sea. He believes that regular communication with the north-flowing Siberian rivers can be established through July and August by providing vessels bound for these ports