

NEWS AND NOTES.

The editor visited Portland last week.

Miss Alice Davenport is teaching in the primary room at present.

The L. U. O. orchestra will give a social ball at Liberal Hall, Monday evening, Dec. 25th. Tickets 50 cents.

Our business office has been moved to the University building. The printing plant will follow in a few days.

Do not fail to hear Dr. Chas. H. Brewer lecture on Sanitation, at the Thought Exchange, Sunday evening.

The L. U. O. orchestra and band are making rapid progress, and their music can be heard at morning, noon and night.

Mr. and Mrs. Preston and Mrs. Cynthia Hosmer left for Sumpter, Oregon, last Saturday, where they expect to remain for the winter.

We have just received a new supply of "Right Living," neatly bound in cloth, which we are anxious to sell at \$1 each. You ought to possess one.

Every preparation is being made for a glorious time at Liberal Hall, Christmas Eve. You cannot afford to be anywhere else if possible for you to be at this entertainment.

We gratefully acknowledge receipt of Helen H. Gardener's writings, which the author has kindly donated to the Liberal University library. We hope other authors will follow Miss Gardener's example.

The Liberal University receives some splendid press notices in the last issue of the Freethought Ideal. We return thanks to our "Ideal" sister and wish her great success for E. M. 300.

The Hosmer crew paid their debt to the winning side in the Y. P. S. S. C. last Friday night, and now there is peace once more. A pleasant time was had at dancing for a few hours and then we all feasted on sandwiches, cake, pie and fruit. To-morrow night is the regular business meeting, and new officers will be elected. Every member of the society ought to be present, for new captains will be elected and sides chosen for the coming battle.

The Executive Board of the Oregon State Secular Union held its regular meeting at Liberal Hall, Sunday evening, Dec. 3rd. President Warren Carsner sent in his resignation, saying that he thought it best to resign since he would not be able to meet with the board. Mr. Carsner requested that Prof. Wakeman be elected to fill his place, which request was unanimously accepted, and we feel sure that Prof. Wakeman will fill the office to the entire satisfaction of all concerned.

We are sorry to learn that our friend, Mrs. M. M. Turner, of Washington, D. C., is slightly ill.

The Woman's Club met at the home of Miss Rauch last Saturday, and all present expressed delight with the success of the meeting.

Thanksgiving Hare.

TO YE EDITOR OF YE TORCH OF REASON: I've dressed, for your Thanksgiving, A "steriled" hare, so fat; I hung him in the woodshed To keep him from the cat; I send him to "ye editor" So that he may see I'm mindful of the friendliness That he has shown to me.

'Tis said a hare is good when cooked By methods not a few: Is good in roast, or boil, or fry, And isn't bad in stew. But the first thing is to catch him (So the cook books say), But this one is already caught, And can not run away.

But, garnish him with dumplin's, And if you don't know who To offer a petition And render thanks unto, The pleasure of your dinner May be without alloy, Unless you can not hold as much As when you were a boy.

F. S. MATTESON.

Turner, Ore.

The Silverton Thought Exchange.

"O, the rain; it raineth every day." But that did not keep an audience of a century or more from hearing Dr. and Prof. Abel A. Leonard discuss the question "whether Phrenology was a Science?" at Liberal Hall on Sunday night.

Dr. Leonard tackled his subject in a deliberate, scientific, but very interesting manner. He made it quite clear that the latter results of scientific investigation of the brain and its action had confirmed the position taken by Dr. Gall and the earlier phrenologists. It was a very instructive exposition, and especially the evidence that the brain and memory could be improved by training and exercise; which was a hint applauded by the University people present.

Prof. Buff was the first in the discussion, and instructed the audience with fact after fact within his knowledge, which came as fresh and free and refreshing as the Oregon rain.

Prof. Wakeman then tried to bring together the physiological, materialistic phrenologist, who might contend that mind is only the activity of the brain, and the spiritualist or metaphysical psychologist who might contend that the brain was only the organ of the mind. When Dr. Leonard was brought to face this question, he said he would to like have it discussed, and plead agnosticism. Dr. Brewer also went for a statement of Prof. Wakeman that the locomotor faculties were located in the posterior part of the brain and the spinal cord, and claimed that the organ of sight was now proved to act from there. Prof. Wakeman retreated behind Dr. Gall and insisted that the sight was there to keep the locomotion from going it

blind in amative affairs, which Dr. Gall had also located there.

The choir gave us some splendid music, and Prof. Buff was asked to give a reading of a live head. He was blindfolded. "A person never to be known to him" was produced on the platform. The reading was given. The person and every one present was astonished, and upon reaching the door both the subject and the weather were found to have cleared up!

Next Sunday Dr. Brewer will expound Sanitation. The Sunday after Mrs. Hosmer and Prof. Wakeman will lead off a Christmas celebration, to which all are invited, especially the children. X. Y. Z.

SEND US FUEL.

We are overworked and have no time to write short stories for the Torch. Can't some one furnish us short Secular stories just for the love of the cause? If you can't do better, select stories from other writers and send them in. They must be short—one page of the Torch—and contain no superstition. Try!

We also wish that every subscriber would write short, pithy sayings (Little Points) and send them to us regularly. Every one who reads has some good thoughts. Jot them down and help to keep the Torch ablaze.

"Retreshing."

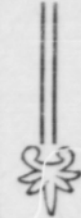
Representative E. H. Flagg of the Oregon legislature, in reviewing the work done at the last session, says: "I must confess it was refreshing when Senator Adams requested a small appropriation for the benefit of the Silverton Freethinkers' University." We would like to know what the Hon. Mr. Flagg means and in what way he was refreshed. We wonder if he would like to be refreshed again at the next session, if he happens to be a lawmaker, and if he would help furnish the refreshments. Do not worry, no such refreshments are in prospect. We are satisfied with our last year's effort.

A photograph has been taken of the faculty of the Liberal University, and we have them for sale at fifty cents each, postpaid. This is a splendid picture, 5 1/2 x 8 inches, mounted on a fine, large card, ready for framing. Every friend of the Liberal University ought to have one of these photographs. The group consists of thirteen persons, and is a splendid showing for our school.



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Otto W en,

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