

Coming Events.

Sunday Evening, Dec. 24 (Christmas Eve).—Entertainment and Christmas Tree at Liberal Hall—Free for all.

Monday Evening, Dec. 25 (Christmas Ball) by the L. U. O. Orchestra at Liberal Hall.

Wednesday Evening, Dec. 27—Drama, "Foiled", by home talent, at Liberal Hall. Dance after the play.

Sunday Evening, Dec. 31.—Lecture by Professor Hosmer at the Thought Exchange.

NEWS AND NOTES.

"Foiled," Wednesday evening.

Our business manager went to Portland on business last week.

See the drama, "Foiled," at the Liberal Hall, Wednesday evening, Dec. 27, by home talent.

There will be no meeting of the Y. P. S. S. C. and the Woman's Club during the vacation.

One more class-room is ready for occupancy, and is much appreciated by both teachers and students.

Remember the Christmas dance given by the L. U. O. orchestra, at Liberal Hall, Monday evening, the 25th.

Those desiring the Weekly Oregonian with the Torch of Reason one year for \$1.50, must order before Jan. 1, 1900, as our contract expires at that time. Order now!

When it comes to Christmas presents, please remember that the Torch of Reason will be greatly appreciated by your Secular friends, and a year's subscription will be an appropriate present.

Miss Buff's drama, "Foiled," promises to be very interesting and deserves a large attendance. There will be a dance after the performance. Get your seats reserved at Brooks' Pharmacy.

Many of the L. U. O. students are preparing to spend the Christmas holidays at their homes or with friends, and be ready to take a fresh start when school commences again Jan. 2nd.

The Christmas entertainment at Liberal Hall, Sunday evening, is going to be one of the pleasantest affairs of the season. It is free for all. You should be present with your presents.

Mr. John S. Holman, the "hustler of Pontiac," Ill., has sent us some subscribers and an order for some pictures of the faculty, and includes two dollars extra to help in the building fund. Mr. Holman is always on hand when there is any good to be done for the cause of Secularism.

Don't you want to make yourself a Christmas present of a Stock Certificate in the Liberal University? It will cost you but ten dollars a share, and you have no idea how much good that amount of money will do the cause. Try it and see how proud you will be to possess one of these Stock Certificates.

The specialties between the acts of the drama, Wednesday evening, are well worth the price of admission.

The meeting of the Woman's Club last Saturday was interesting and well attended.

At the Y. P. S. S. C. meeting last Friday evening the following officers were elected: C. L. Page, Pres.; Clyde Mount, V.-Pres.; Ollie Geer, Sec.; J. D. Drake, Treas.; V. Dahl, Sarg't at Arms; Alice Davenport and Pearl W. Geer, Captains.

The Silverton Thought Exchange.

DR. CHAS. H. BREWER ON SANITATION.

At last the weather of an Oregon winter did smile on the Thought Exchange, and with the attraction of the popular young lecturer and his practical subject, drew the finest audience of the season. The house was filled by good looking and thoughtful people whose presence proved that the Exchange is fast becoming the brains of our rising young city, as it started out to be.

Vice-President Pearl W. Geer presided, and the first business was the election of a president of the Exchange, and after several nominations, Dr. Brewer, the lecturer of the evening, was unanimously chosen.

Then the lecturer went at his subject, Sanitation, in a quiet, business-like way which at once gave the audience pleasure and confidence. One of the best judges present, an old resident, says that "for purity and propriety of diction, Dr. Brewer's lecture has never been surpassed in Silverton". He might have made the same remark as to its substance. He first pointed out what sanitation really is, and how it has arisen in modern time as the result of the rise and progress of science, whose methods are by it applied to the securing of the people's health, individually and collectively. The favorable results he proved by statistics in regard to lessened death rates and increased longevity. Sanitation should be the prime care of every individual, family and community. Then he showed in what ways—such as ventilation, protection against dust and dangerous microbes, and consequent isolation of many diseases; spitting on sidewalks, etc., he condemned, favored vaccination; then the water must be looked after, and how and why was shown at length; then he advocated cremation, next went for a review of the food questions, etc., etc. And by "etc." we mean that you cannot expect his discourse here. The real good things of the Exchange must be had by coming for them. In a word, the information the doctor gave, plus the ideas Mr. Wakeman advocated in a former lecture, which were referred to favorably by

the lecturer, would make the Willamette valley a slice of the earthly paradise and Silverton a model city of health and comfort. The lecture was heartily applauded.

Prof. Wakeman opened the discussion because the glorious success of the Thought Exchange and of this lecture made him the happiest man present. He pointed out that Silverton people could do and have all these good things if they only would go for them, and that MAN is the only providence of Man. He bore hard on those who sleep on low first floors of houses, who drink bad well or river water and who do not live cleanly and have a nourishing variety of foods. Let Silvertonites take the advice of their physicians on these subjects BEFORE instead of after they are sick!

Prof. Hosmer applauded the lecture, except that he had doubts about vaccination, and explained why. There was something unnatural and wrong about it.

Dr. A. A. Leonard thought it might do to sleep on first floors in Silverton, but in other and malarial districts—no! And then those fearful microbes! Better fight them off by keeping up good health. They make disease because the conditions of disease invite and harbor them; but keep them out.

Mrs. Minnie P. Hosmer decidedly approved the lecturer's advocacy of cremation, and urged that a Silverton crematory be started at once. She was unwilling to die without one.

Mr. Lou Ames explained the whys and wherefores of the water and sewer business in Silverton, and what ought to be done.

Mr. P. L. Brown also tackled the water and sewer, and the river and the roads, and the impression left was that all of them had better be looked after without delay.

Dr. Brewer closed the evening by standing up for all he had said, even vaccination; nor did he think that "hard-pan graves" were likely to make a decent resting place for the dead.

Next Sunday Mrs. Hosmer and Mr. Wakeman will hold forth at the Christmas Festival and Tree. All invited free; but bring or send presents in the afternoon to be given out in the evening.

THE SMARTNESS OF GOD.

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and yet refuses to do good, that thing would better be know as a devil.

There is no god, nor is there a devil. The great universal law of Nature is simply the conservation of all forces, which are inherent in and exhibited by the eternal elements, or the various expressions of one universal energy inherent in a primal, elementary substance.

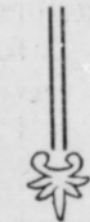
The god of the "word of God" is not a god and wrote no word. Science has no god; then where will

we find a god, excepting in the untrained, unscientific minds of the deluded? And here what do we find? Only fantasies based on selfishness and fear. And the worst of it is that these fantasies are demoralizing, belittling and destroying the very best in the highest and best peoples in the world.

Speaking of the god of the Bible, Helen H. Gardener says: "A belief in such a god is enough to demoralize the whole human race. And, with such an ideal, we can only wonder that reform schools are not more numerous and that prisons are ever empty." And as she so beautifully shows, the followers of Confucius, Buddha and Mohammed are more moral—more to be trusted—more temperate than the people of New York, Boston, Liverpool and London.

The advantages that the Caucasian race has had are very great, and it is a shame that we are behind many of our dusky brothers in morality, but our superior intellect will be ruined at last and our retrogression will begin, if it has not already, and the despised heathen may develop into a higher race before the world can be saved from its greed and fear, unless the eyes of our people can be turned from the powerless gods and brazen serpents to the golden truths of Science.

Holiday Goods



Will be scarce in some lines. Waltham and Elgin factories can not supply the demand. It will be to your interest to order now.

Diamonds have advanced, but I can supply orders direct from importers and guarantee to undersell any other retailer in the United States.

Watches I have again reduced with special reference to undersell big catalogue houses. Pay no attention to my old price-lists, but send for latest; or if ordered from the old, I will return the change.

Opals, Garnets, Chains, Bracelets, Emblems of any order, or jewelry of any kind and quality, Silver Novelties, the Gorham Silver spoons, in sets or single, "1847" triple-plated ware, Gold Pens, Gold Canes, etc. I will send you best goods at lowest prices. Send cuts from any catalogue or describe closely and I will suit you or refund cash.

Ingersoll Spoons and Free-thought Badges must be ordered early or the supply may be exhausted. Price-lists and my tract, "Theism in the Crucible", sent free.

Otto Wettstein,

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