

NEWS AND NOTES.

Mr. D. E. Swank, of Aumsville, Ore., visited the L. U. O. Monday.

The German class has made a good start and the students are deeply interested.

Can't you help us to double the Torch of Reason subscription list before the close of Vol. 4?

Miss Georgia Davenport entered the Business Department of the Liberal University this week.

Miss Clara Wakeman, instructor in Art in the Liberal University, visited in Portland the first of the week.

The drama, "Topsy Turvy", is being rehearsed by home talent and will soon be staged at Liberal Hall. Watch for the date.

We had a very pleasant visit from Mr. Harry Bailey of Portland, last week. He is very favorably impressed with Silverton and the surrounding country.

Mrs. Emily L. Wakeman will read a paper on "The History of Woman's Suffrage" at the Thought Exchange Sunday evening. A general discussion will follow.

Master Thomas Carter and his sister Marguerite, late of Salt Lake City, Utah, arrived from Spokane, Washington, Tuesday noon and enrolled as students of the Liberal University.

Captain Geer gave first program of the term at the Y. P. S. S. C. last Friday evening. Captain Davenport is working hard to win and the program next Friday evening will be interesting.

The students and teachers of the L. U. O. gave a farewell party on Tuesday evening to Mr. John Steelhammer, who is soon to leave us for Minnesota. All report a pleasant time, though a tinge of sadness was noticeable.

The printing office, now located in the basement of the University building, is being fitted up in first-class shape and everything will be so convenient that we will be able to turn out work promptly. Try us and see.

Many subscriptions have expired with this the first number of Vol. 4, and we hope there will be no delay in renewing. Please look at the list of books we have for sale and include in your letter an order for your other reading matter for the winter.

Remember, if you send us the names and addresses of 25 of your Liberal friends and acquaintances, we will make you a present of a copy of the Torch of Reason Song Book No. 2. This will only cost you a few minutes' work and a two-cent stamp.

Silverton Thought Exchange.

Continued from 6th page.

speaker. He had as a student of medicine and physiology found it too plain to dispute that the mind was the action of the brain. How could any one explain away the fact that as the brain was partly injured the mind ceased, and when the brain ceased to act the mind wholly ceased? As to the immortality belief, there was no evidence of it. It accomplished no good purpose, and was the one thing that arrested progress on this Earth.

Then the VENERABLE GENTLEMAN returned to the charge with another long detail of facts, such as "spirit emanations," so that after a man died he was plainly seen walking beside a fence with a body so translucent that the fence could be plainly seen through his legs. Emanations of living persons also occurred so that a person could be seen in one city while actually living in another, etc. The Society for Psychological Research had proved "no end of facts," and were still at it.

This last budget of facts seemed to have been too much for PROF. WAKEMAN.

He backed up against the stage and "went for" the whole spiritual business without gloves. He was utterly astonished at the old talk he had heard in the intelligent city of Silverton. The scientific discovery that life was the action and reaction of the vital processes of protoplasm had ended the matter. This discovery stood just like the Copernican Astronomy; the discovery that heat and light were modes of motion; and that lightning and the "thunderbolt" was not "a thing" at all. It was simply idle to keep on talking as though the sun revolved around the earth, or light was a corpuscle, or thought a ghost or entity of some kind. Nature can never do one thing in more than one way, for the law of correlation, which was the fundamental law of Science, made it even unthinkable that anything could happen without a correlative cause, which could never vary. It followed that as life is the result of a known line of causation—a process of correlative known forces, there could not possibly be a spook. That old explanation was 300 years behind the age, just as much as the old Ptolemaic Astronomy, and should be left to the churches.

As to the so-called spiritual facts they had been explained by modern mental Science, except in so far as they were frauds or total misapprehensions. Ten years of his experience with a committee of experts had given him a result that such supposed facts always arose out of either fraud, illusion, delusion or disease. When submitted to scientific examination and tests there was literally nothing in them. Such

stories as that of seeing a fence through the ghost of a dead man walking, or seeing the "emanation" of a living man in another city from that in which he was living, were only instances of the subjective image, made within the excited brain, being projected as of an objective form outside the eye. All senses were subject to this inversion. This was the cause of all the ghosts or spooks ever seen, and there was now no mystery about that. The belief in immortality, founded upon these spook stories, was one of the worst of their evil consequences. It prevented any realization of the true position of man in this world, or hope of making possible an earthly paradise. The speaker became quite spirited in some of his remarks, and finally declared the whole spook brood and consequences as so much rot, from which every healthy mind should keep clear. This was said with a stamp of the foot as if to shew them out of the hall. And did they go?

The lecturer said he did not know whether he was alive and in the flesh or not after Prof. Wakeman's diatribe. He thought the word rot was no argument; but as his wife had told him not to indulge in sarcasm, he would let the Professor go this time. He questioned Pres. Hosmer's charge of confusion, or anarchy, against the spirits, and Mr. Geer's query how, if the soul was not dependent on the brain, it ceased acting when the brain was injured, by saying that the spirit was dependent on the brain partially for its manifestation, at the same time it must exist independently of the brain.

Then the choir gave a touch of harmony. When the audience reached the door, behold it had cleared up without as within, and the stars of love and hope were shining as clear as ever.

Next Sunday Mrs. T. B. Wakeman will speak on "The History of Woman Suffrage, and its Future."

X. Y. Z.

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