

NEWS AND NOTES.

There are only three more meetings of the Y. P. S. C. this term and then we will know who has to treat.

Lelia and Mary Smith, of Silverton, entered the Primary Department of the Liberal University this week.

Miss Clara Wakeman will give her experience in England and France for the Thought Exchange next Sunday evening.

Mr. Geo. Crawford, of Lonerock, Ore., made us a pleasant call this week and presented ye editor and wife with their picture enlarged in crayon.

We gratefully acknowledge the receipt of a valuable book, "A Story of the Heavens," for the library from Mr. John McArdle, Omaha, Neb.

We are sorry to record the death of Mr. Spencer Dudley, a Free-thinker well known in Silverton. He died in Lebanon, Ore., and was buried in the Silverton cemetery Wednesday.

If any of the subscribers for stock in the Liberal University have not received their certificates, they should inform us at once, for all have been mailed that have been paid for in full.

The Woman's Social Science Club will meet at the Liberal University next Saturday afternoon. Mrs. Davenport will have a paper on Co-operation. A discussion will follow. All ladies are invited.

Mrs. Sula Dean of Talent, Oregon, visited us this week. Her daughter Miss Minnie Robison, is attending the Liberal University, and Mrs. Dean expresses herself as being delighted with our work and the progress we are making.

Secretary Reichwald of the American Secular Union and Free-thought Federation writes that complaints are coming from many quarters that school boards are allowing the Bible to be read in the public schools. This is a matter that should be closely watched by every Freethinker. If any of our readers know of any instance where the Bible is being read in the public schools, we wish they would inform us and we will co-operate with them to have it stopped.

The Freethought Magazine for February says: "Some of our friends are fearful that the Silverton Liberal University will not succeed. We were at first, but have changed our views as we learn more about it. The Western people, especially, must go to its support and make it a power for good in their midst." We hope the "Western people" will take Brother Green's advice, and when we speak of the

West, let us view it as the New Englanders do—"West" means everything west of Boston.

The Chicago Liberal Society, just organized, meets every Sunday morning at 10:45 o'clock in the Masonic Temple. A cordial invitation is extended to all to attend.

One thousand extra copies of this issue of the Torch of Reason have been printed to be distributed as sample copies. This will be done one issue each month for a year, and we hope each subscriber will send us a list of names of people who will be interested in our work. Parties receiving this paper as a sample are requested to read it and pass it on to others. If you think this paper and the Liberal University are worth supporting, we would be pleased to have you send in a dollar for a year's subscription.

Silverton Thought Exchange.

DR. CHARLES BREWER ON VACCINATION.

That was a severe test for the Thought Exchange last Sunday, for it had not been given out that Dr. Brewer was to lecture, and so the Oregon weather was caught napping and didn't rain; and so the Silverton people thought that nothing great could be going on. It was not, in fact, until Dr. Brewer was on the platform listening to the choir, after the children had given a chorus song, that it got out that he was "going for the variola and anti-vaccinationists." Then there must have been a scrambling for hats and bonnets in the town, for the hall was soon filled.

The young and graceful doctor never looked better and was never in better trim. He had notes for statistics, etc., but was so loaded with facts that he did not bother with them much. He showed what a curse small pox had been—generally taking one-sixth of the population, and often sweeping the whole or nearly so, by terrible epidemics—especially among barbarous peoples; and how the disease was a continuous horror that might fall upon any one at any time. Then he showed how Lady Mary Montague had brought "inoculation" of the disease itself as some prevention and a mitigation. Then he gave the romantic story of the milkmaids and Dr. Jenner, and how they finally got the fact through his head that cow pox was the preventive needed. Then he went over the facts which had been taken by "the profession" as perfectly conclusive that it was a preventive, and how they had been confirmed by test cases and statistics in cities, armies, hospitals, etc., etc. And lastly, that pock-marked people, formerly common, were very rare now in any civilized country, and pock epidemics and deaths were rarer. He only sorrowed over

the "anti-vaccinationists", who were "too cranky" to be other than exceptions to prove any good and wholesome rule, and then left the platform easily master of the situation and amid hearty applause.

Prof. Wakeman had to take the floor because others were backward in coming forward. He placed on the platform a bundle of "anti-vaccination" books, pamphlets, etc., which had been deposited in the library of the Liberal University by the anti-vaccination doctors of New York. He asked why the vaccinationists do not likewise; and generally why they would not do something to convince the people that they were right before they got the law to use force and turn children out of school and their parents into prison if not vaccinated. Dr. Brewer was praised to the echo as one "regular" physician who had begun this needed course of popular enlightenment on this very important subject. It certainly was a case with two sides to it as long as compulsory vaccination was the law. The trouble was that doctors took their "ethics" from the theologians and say, "Believe and be vaccinated or be damned", and they really did not give any good reasons for believing, and the anti-vaccinationists had it mostly their own way, and many honest people were in doubt. As long as there was this doubt, the Professor advised those likely to be exposed to the fearful disease to be sure and be vaccinated. And if exposed, or if any thought they had been, to be vaccinated immediately, and he asked how long after exposure would vaccination avail to mitigate the disease and give an unmarking varioloid in its place.

Dr. Brewer, Senior, arose and said after long experience it had been proved that if vaccination was had within four days after exposure death and marking would most surely be avoided, but danger of extending the contagion to others must be carefully guarded against in such cases as in other cases.

Other questions were asked.

Prof. Hosmer expressed much sympathy with the law-prosecuted anti-vaccinationists. The vaccination facts and arguments seemed to him wonderfully like the theologians trying to prove "the operation of the Holy Ghost". There were always good ways enough to account for the results, without either ghost or vaccine. In a free country before one's own person is violated by law and force, there should be conclusive evidence of the necessity and efficacy of this disease-poison forced into the system.

A gentleman then wanted to know if the vaccination prevention was not in the line of the anti-toxine serum remedies which had revolutionized medicine since Pasteur's introduction of them. Also if something could not be done to

save Prof. Hosmer who individually and as head of the Liberal University was too good and too important a man to be left to be damned or even to die with variola.

The lecturer replied that vaccination was thoroughly vindicated by the new phase of medicine and prevention of diseases by microbe culture introduced by Pasteur, and that no scientist who would look into the matter could now have any doubt about it. How to save Prof. Hosmer was a far more difficult question. He would waive professional ethics so far as to lend him the needful books, but how could he be sure that they would be read so as "to take"?

Then the town of Silverton discussed the matter until late bedtime, thankful that they had a lovely lot of doctors to immune them against this great terror.

X. Y. Z.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Our Wrath Appeased.

EDITOR TORCH OF REASON:

Lo and behold! a hand appeareth on the Torch of Reason which sayeth, "Your subscription hath expired!" Enclosed you will find 25 cents to again appease your wrath. Yours for truth,

M. P. GIFFORD.

A Badge of Honor.

EDITOR TORCH OF REASON:

Freethought schools will spread all over the civilized world. There is a glorious future before them. Students of the L. U. O. now will be proud of having been such fifty years hence. My advice is that they hold this the parent institution in high honor. It will return you the compliment with interest in your old age. "Student of the L. U. O." will be a badge of honor fifty years hence. "Lo! I have told you."

F. S. MATTESON.

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.

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