

## NEWS AND NOTES.

Examinations this week.

Mr. Geer went to Portland Wednesday on business.

The third term in the Liberal University begins next Monday.

The students of the L. U. O. are fast becoming scholars. Labor conquers.

There are now 2500 volumes in L. U. O. library. This we consider a nucleus to be proud of.

A graduate of bookkeeping in the L. U. O., Mr. Lonie Rauch, is now keeping the books of the Liberal University Company.

A pretty little raccoon has been mounted for our museum. As usual, H. C. Page, the taxidermist, has proven himself an artist.

There were a number of visitors at the University this week to listen to the opening exercises, especially Prof. Wakeman's lectures.

Dr. Leonard will lecture at the Thought Exchange next Sunday evening. His subject is, "What Shall we Do with our Young People?"

Mr. G. L. Gullickson, of Dixon, Illinois, writes: "I like the Torch and you may count on me as a permanent subscriber. Everybody should read it."

Our friends afar will know that it is not very cold in Silverton during the winter by the fact that a calla lily has lived all winter in our large study room without any fire at night.

Several of our friends have sent in splendid lists of names and we hope others will respond to our call. We want four thousand names of people who will read our literature.

Mr. G. Hickathier, of Portland, who visited us last week, is going to donate the work and material to point up the stone wall under the University building. This is enthusiasm along the right line.

Mr. Chas. Saussele, of Minnesota, made us a very pleasant call last week. He is very favorably impressed with our work and says we have "the best thing in the world". The best part of it is, Mr. Saussele is going to help to make it better.

The New York Truth Seeker of February 17 is a Giordano Bruno number, and contains the most information concerning that unfortunate pantheistic philosopher which has been given in a popular form. It tells when and how he lived, who his enemies were, their crimes against him, and what he suffered at their hands. It also gives a sketch of his philosophy, which aroused the hate and fear of the church. An authentic portrait

is printed, also a picture of the monument erected to him in 1899, and the scene of his martyrdom in flame. Other interesting articles appear in the same issue.

Prof. Wakeman, president of the Oregon State Secular Union, is receiving many encouraging letters from the members in different parts of the State. There is no reason why the Union should not accomplish a great deal the coming season.

The writer has attended schools where students came from a distance, but he never saw them more contented than those at the L. U. O. Little girls and boys who have come hundreds of miles and are at first among utter strangers, are soon right at home and as happy as the birds.

The following persons have sent in the sums set opposite their names as donations: G. Hickathier, \$1.00; Chas. Saussele, \$5.00; Blenda Palm Reynolds, \$1.00; Robert Garth, \$2.50; O. T. Glenn, \$5.00. These people realize that spring is upon us and that it is necessary to begin to build and get things in readiness for the next year's work.

We hope all our readers will take particular notice of the proposition made by Mr. Robert Garth on page 5 of this issue of the paper. If every one of the Torch family will donate a day's work each month for six months on the University building, we will have room for 300 students. Who will join Mr. Garth and help make this plan a success?

The Woman's Social Science Club held a very interesting meeting at the home of Mrs. A. Wolf last Saturday afternoon. Mrs. Dr. Leonard read an excellent paper on Heredity. The next meeting will be held in the parlor of Wolfard's Hotel, and Mrs. T. W. Davenport will present a paper on Vaccination. The club now has twenty members. All ladies are invited to attend the meetings held every Saturday afternoon at 3 o'clock.

## Silverton Thought Exchange.

PROF. T. B. WAKEMAN ON "BRUNO, THE RISING STAR OF THE NEW ERA."

Sunday evening, Feb. 18th, was the day chosen by the Liberals generally to commemorate the burning of Giordano Bruno, and the publication of Copernicus' theories of the universe.

The Silverton Thought Exchange was not backward in this movement, and were fortunate in having Prof. T. B. Wakeman to address them on this important subject. A chorus by the choir, then the reading of the minutes, followed by a vocal duet, is what we had in the way of opening exercises. Then Prof. Wakeman began his part of

the program. I will not attempt to tell you what he said. Every word should have been heard by every person in the world. The whole address will appear in the Torch of Reason for March 7th, a thousand extra copies of which will be printed and sent out over the country to enlighten the masses. Do not fail to read this lecture. You know from your past experience with Prof. Wakeman's lectures what this one will be. If you want any extra copies order them now.

Selections which startled the audience were read from Bruno's writings. Very few people realize what conclusions Bruno arrived at from his investigations made over 300 years ago. His ideas are far in advance of those of many people of today.

On the stage, in front of the speaker's stand, was a large picture of Copernicus, with one of Bruno and Galileo on either side. These were draped with ivy and hyacinths and were frequently referred to by the speaker.

At the close of the address the president announced that Dr. Leonard will lecture to us next Sunday evening on the question: "What shall we do with our young people?" Then we listened to a song by the L. U. O. choir and were dismissed.

P. W. G.

## Spiritual Materialism.

The first sentence or two in the extract from Prof. Ernst Haeckel on our first page may seem hard to catch on to, unless we remember that the last article left off with an inquiry as to the two questions of matter and energy, and matter and life. Remembering that these are the questions, all that follows is plain sailing.

He shows that the so-called spiritualists are the real bad materialists. They always represent and think of their ghosts as gas or some kind of matter; for an immaterial being of any kind, he points out, is unthinkable. The word materialist is applicable to Spiritualists only. The Scientist who sees and believes that life, mind and soul is a property and process of protoplasm, is the ONLY ONE who recognizes and really believes in an immaterial soul—the true Biological soul. He points out that the old material soul was believable until Science has shown it to be an illusion. We know when it commences at conception and ends at death, as far as the egoistic life is concerned, having at that time passed into the altruistic. The "growsome morality of the Middle Ages" shows that this immortal Egoism is the worst possible guarantee of morals. True morality, like wisdom, can have no sure foundation but truth.

These conclusions of the greatest living Biologist are simply the re-

sults of the facts and laws of Science. They are as certain as any human conception can be and ought to end this discussion. T. B. W.

## Freethought Gaining Rapidly.

EDITOR TORCH OF REASON:

I have been thinking for a long time that I would write and tell you how heartily I appreciate the noble work of the Torch of Reason in its gallant fight for free thought and free speech. I think the Liberals of Oregon can and do feel pretty proud of the Torch and our Liberal University.

We received the photo of the faculty and take special pride in showing it to our friends. Surely the Liberal University, championed by the Torch of Reason, has made giant strides in the right direction. I feel sure you are "building greater than you know", and you are gaining many friends in this section, although some of them are not very aggressive. I am convinced that Freethought is growing rapidly in this State, and no small amount of the credit is due to the Torch of Reason and Liberal University. It is very apparent to any casual observer that the most substantial and successful men pay very little or no attention to religious matters. Of course when pressed publicly they profess a belief in the inspiration of the Bible, but they don't act as if they thought it was of any vital importance.

Ontario is a thriving little city, with three large dry goods and grocery stores, one gent's and ladies' furnishing, one racket, one furniture, one bank, three livery and feed stables, one confectionery store, one barber shop, two hotels, one restaurant, one bakery, two blacksmith shops, one butcher shop, two churches and three saloons, all doing a thriving business except the churches. If there has been a convert to either of them in the last year, I have not heard of it. They have not even got a resident minister. With all this prosperity it looks as though they could afford to have one poorly paid preacher, but several have tried and starved out. I think there are some sincere Christians in Ontario, but if all that profess to be Christians were really so, why don't they back it up with their filthy lucre and keep at least one well paid enlightened minister.

Thomas Paine rightly says: "Infidelity does not consist in believing or in disbelieving; it consists in professing to believe what he does not believe," and that "it is necessary to the happiness of man that he be mentally faithful to himself." What a grand thought.

Yours fraternally,

A. A. BROWN.

Ontario, Ore.