

Agnostics develop their brains and assist others to become enlightened. Ministers live in a small world and read nothing except the ignorant mutterings of the uneducated dead, and become dwarfed in their own minds and sow the seeds of narrowness in the minds of others.

Agnostics investigate the acts of the dead, improve and build on them; live in the present; consult the phenomena of Nature and scientifically endeavor to discover the mystery that surrounds life and death.

Ministers demand belief and faith. Agnostics demand the evidence.

Agnostics accept the accomplishments of all the best that ever lived.

Ministers live in the uneducated past and glory in quoting the insane ravings of the dead, especially if they have been dead a long while.

Agnostics cultivate the wheat of life; ministers keep alive the thistles of the past.

Agnostics fill the granary of the world with glistening gems of thought; ministers are satisfied with the thoughts of the dead.

#### A Victim of Revivals.

EDITOR TORCH OF REASON:

In looking over your article, "Development vs. Creation," in the Torch of January 18th, I cannot but reflect on my boyhood days and note the influences thrown around me, and I recall to my mind a series of revival meetings I attended when about fourteen years old, at which, after relating stories of deathbed repentances and hairbreadth escapes from hell, until he had most of the women and children and a number of the men in tears, the minister graciously opened the doors of his church to the poor, wretched sinners, whom he so dearly loved that he would be willing to have them damned to eternal punishment because they did not believe as he did. A good old Christian brother, who made long prayers and loud speeches, called out his children, of which he was blessed with a goodly number, and ordered them to "go up and jine the meetin'," and with childish obedience they filed up to the altar, not one of them realizing the nature of the step they had taken. When these meetings came to a close, I was also numbered with the flock, as was nearly every child in the neighborhood. The blood-curdling stories of ministers, combined with other influences surrounding me, had led me to believe that I was a very great sinner, and I was in constant fear of being struck by lightning or blown away by a cyclone, or some horrible death that the Lord might see fit to inflict upon me; and now that I was numbered with God's people, I felt quite good. I was quite attentive to business for awhile, call-

ing upon the Lord regularly several times every day. But I soon noticed that my prayers were very seldom, if ever, answered, and I began to doubt if I was in favor with the Lord. I soon stopped praying, however, and commenced thinking. As a result, I am today a staunch Liberal; and when I think of the various means employed in the past to impress on the minds of children these dogmas of God and the devil, I do not wonder that orthodoxy has the following it has, and when I see people poisoning the minds of innocent children with the germs of this miserable superstition, it gives me a sickly feeling. I realize that it is my duty, as well as the duty of every Liberal, to aid in every possible way the noble work of rescuing the rising generation from the tangled web of ignorance that has been woven about them. The place to commence is most assuredly with the young. This is where the evil starts. Destroy the germ, and the evil cannot much longer exist. If people could only be induced to stop teaching the religion of Jesus Christ, and teach instead the religion of Science, orthodoxy would soon cease to exist, and the next generation would see less poverty, crime and misery and more noble, broad-minded men and women.

Yours for Progress,  
R. L. HICKMAN.  
Bakeoven, Ore.

#### Oregon the Cap-Sheat.

The United States grain exhibit at the Paris exposition is going to be something grand and fine, and Oregon is going to furnish the cap-sheat for it all.

That will be quite a fine feather in Oregon's cap, and will attract the attention of the world.

The distinguished honor has been accorded on the simple score of merit, and merit alone. The United States government wanted a bundle of the finest wheat on stalk—something that no foreign country could surpass—and Oregon had the best bundle of wheat there was to be found.

The variety is White Russian, and it was raised on the O. R. & N. experimental farm. The bundle is two feet in diameter, and it will stand five feet two inches high as a center pedestal of the American exhibit at Paris. It will open the eyes of all people who view it and will be a living, useful, monument to the productive capacity of the nation and of the Pacific Northwest; and may well be proud of the enterprise of the men who raised it.—[Exchange.]

A descriptive catalogue of all the best Freethought works free on application to Dellquest & Andrews, Secular Booksellers, El Paso, Texas.

## \$3—GREAT SPECIAL OFFER\$3 A PHYSICIAN IN THE HOUSE

A New Family Medical Work  
by Dr. J. H. Greer, Chicago



**T**HIS book is up to date in every particular. It tells you how to cure yourself by simple and harmless home remedies. It recommends no poisonous or dangerous drugs. It teaches simple common-sense methods in accordance with nature's laws. It does not endorse dangerous experiments with the surgeon's knife. It teaches how to save health and life by safe methods. It is entirely free from technical rubbish. It teaches prevention—that it is better to know how to avoid disease than to take any medicine as a cure. It teaches how typhoid and other fevers can be both prevented and cured, and gives the best known treatment for la grippe, diphtheria, catarrh, consumption, appendicitis and every other disease. It is not an advertisement and has no medicine to sell. It makes uncompromising war on vaccination and the use of anti-toxine. It has 16 colored plates showing different parts of the human body. This book cannot fail to please you. If you are looking for health by the safest and easiest means, do not delay getting it.

Dr. J. H. Greer, the author, is a practicing physician in Chicago, is Professor of Genito-Urinary Diseases in the College of Medicine and Surgery, Physician-in-Chief to the Harvard Medical Institute, and has written many works of value to the profession and public.

This book has 800 pages, is neatly bound in cloth with gold letters, and will be sent postpaid to any address on receipt of price, \$3.00.

**SPECIAL OFFER** By special arrangement with Dr. Greer, we offer **PHYSICIAN IN THE HOUSE** and the **TORCH OF REASON** for one year for only **\$3.00** the price of the book alone.

**A College President's Testimony**  
Prof. Wm. H. Cook, for thirty years Dean of the Cincinnati Physio-Medical College, writes to the author as follows:  
"I have examined your book, 'A Physician in the House,' and am much pleased with its contents and tone. Every family should know how to care for the health of the household, which is a human right and duty. Your book gives the information needed and in language the people can readily understand. I congratulate you on not naming the use of any poison, but adhering strictly to the use of non-poisonous remedies—the one true principle that should guide all treatment of disease, and which I have advocated in my practice for forty years or more."  
Yours truly,  
DR. W. H. COOK."

**How to Make Good Times for all Time**

The Government nationalized the Postal System, why not also the Money System? A plan is told by C. ELTON BLANCHARD in his book entitled . . . . .

**UNCLE SAM'S HOMILIES ON FINANCE**  
Postpaid for 25 Cents

All profits on this book will be given to the Liberal University should be in the hands of every thinking person. Address all orders to  
**The TORCH OF REASON, Silverton, Oregon**

#### Do you take the Torch of Reason?

It is only One Dollar a Year, and contains reading matter that you can not get elsewhere for three times the money. It comes every week, too.

#### Do you take the Weekly Oregonian

It is published at Portland, Ore., and contains more and better information in regard to the Pacific Northwest than any other paper, and is the best news paper in Oregon. You get sixteen pages of good reading matter each week, including all the news of the nation and the world, for only \$1.50 a year.

#### Will you accept A Good Offer?

You can get The Torch of Reason and the Weekly Oregonian both one year for only \$1.75, little more than the price of the Oregonian alone.

Send all orders for subscriptions and for sample copies to

**THE TORCH OF REASON,**  
Silverton, Oregon.

#### Forstner's AUGER BIT

IS INVALUABLE TO

Carpenters and Joiners, for mortising, such as letting in locks, as it takes the place of chisel and gouge; to

Cabinet Makers, for inlaid work, dowelling, patching, removing splits and knots. In fact, no

Wagon or Pattern Maker manufacturer of pianos, organs, sewing machines, agricultural implements, sash, blinds, furniture, nor

Any Other Woodworker, should be without it.

AS A MACHINE BIT IT IS UNEQUALED.

It is the only round bit in the world that will bore a SQUARE HOLE and do all that any other bit will do.

PRICE.

Set of five, different sizes, postpaid. . . \$2.00  
Single bit, postpaid. . . . . .60

Address, **LIBERAL UNIVERSITY CO,**  
SILVERTON, OREGON.