

NEWS AND NOTES.

Another recitation room has been finished in the L. U. O.

Miss Nava Griswold of Salem was a visitor at the L. U. O. this week.

The last heard from our business manager, he was still on the wing, but had not yet reached Cincinnati.

L. Wolf, who has been attending Portland Medical College, entered the Liberal University last Monday. Natural Philosophy and Latin will be his special studies.

The cake walk, the farce, the mirth drill, the little talk on Shakespeare, and everything altogether made the program at the Y. P. S. S. C., last Friday evening, one of the very best.

The Southern Pacific Railroad does not realize how many thousands of dollars it will lose if the agent here has his way in reference to the L. U. O., or they would investigate.

The Extracts on our first page were referred to in our last Torch, and should be carefully considered by all thinkers. Reade gives the best statement of "which immortality?" and Alexander gives the scientific answer.

The Woman's Social Science Club will meet at the residence of Mrs. T. W. Davenport Saturday, April 14, at 3 p. m. Miss Frances Rauch will read the paper of the day. Subject, "Economy".

Just as we go to press the news comes that Prof. Lewis, principal of the public schools at this place, whose name figures so conspicuously on our editorial page, has been dismissed in disgrace. The offense seems to be drunkenness and an attempt to enter a lady's chamber without permission. We think this sad affair is all traceable to the work of the "main member" of the school board, who thought he could injure the L. U. O. by hiring an Infidel with which to fight Infidels, but there are, as we have said before, Infidels and Infidels. Prof. Kraps, the former principal, was an excellent man, but he could not be used as a cat's-paw and was therefore dismissed. We write this report with regret. No one knows better than we do the loss the public sustains by such work, and although they didn't play fair with us we have the kindest feelings towards both Mr. Smith and Mr. Lewis, whose weaknesses are defeating the great good they might do.

Silverton Thought Exchange.

MR. P. L. BROWN ON ELECTRICITY.
Things went very well at the Thought Exchange on Sunday night, when Mr. P. L. Brown led a goodly audience through the wonders of the electrical world displayed. He is a practical electrician, and went right into the explanation of the modes of producing electricity, and the measure of it, by volts, amperes, ohms, wats, etc. Then he took up the applications of electricity, for motors, cars, machinery,

etc., then for lighting and heating, then the telephone, telegraph and the wonders of wireless telegraphy.

Of course it is not possible to give his interesting diagrams and explanations here. But here are a few crumbs from the table, some of which came in answer to inquiries from the audience after the lecture.

The way to be safe, when around electrical laboratories, power houses, or electrical machinery, is to be careful not to stand on iron, earth, or wet boards, and keep one hand in your pocket. Then you will not be likely to make a "circuit." When on electric cars or motors, don't go running or jumping about and feeling things, but sit in the car where you belong, and let loose wires and iron alone.

The former way of considering electricity was that it was a kind of fluid, or rather two fluids—one positive and the other negative. Now we consider it as the vibration of the ether, an ultimate form of force and matter, which we use to explain things, but which we do not yet very well understand—so as to clearly realize it. That it is "something is shown by the fact that it fills the best vacuum we can make, so that the Roentgen rays pass through it. We can only think of the ether, therefore, as filling all space. The affections of this ultimate substance we know as heat, light, electricity and magnetism. These are all found to be convertible into each other as "modes of motion," and may be converted into mechanical motion, and so made to take the place of steam in working our machines, running our cars, etc. By thus harnessing the lightning there is no end to the power we are learning to use.

The lightning and the "thunder-bolt" are now found out not to be things or entities at all, but "modes of motion." The old views to the contrary were illusions which we must outgrow. Instead of caloric, fluid, entity, thunder-bolt, etc., we speak or think only of modes of motion, or vibrations, processes, currents of change, etc.—all correlates of each other—all a unity of changes.

An hour or more was spent in questions, bringing out information of this kind, in which Profs. Hosmer, Hoffman and others took part. Prof. Wakeman called attention to the entire change which had come over the world by this "mode of motion," and this discovery of the "process nature" of things, which, he said, included life and mind. He moved a vote of thanks to the lecturer for his able, interesting and instructive lecture, and the motion was carried unanimously by a rising vote, and all departed more intelligent and happy than they came.

Next Sunday Prof. Hoffman will lecture on "Cranks"—all kinds, so come one and all!
X. Y. Z.

A Singular Discourtesy.

Every friend of free speech and unbogoted education will certainly regret the singular discourtesy shown to President Hosmer, in striking his name from the program at the last meeting of our Silverton Teachers' Association, as stated on our editorial page. What was done to him may be done to others, and if this discourtesy does not remain "singular" it will be the end of free education in Oregon. The idea that any Teachers' Association can

be controlled by a railroad agent and a church will never do as a precedent. The educational affairs of the State are laid out too broad for that. Let us think a moment how that is, and so forecast the danger.

We have had justly characterized as an admirable common school system, which we are all bent upon sustaining to the uttermost. That provides for the education of all in the rudiments of learning for business, no preparation for what is known as a higher or university education. This higher education is now provided so as to be obtained by nearly every one who desires it, by a number of universities representing most of the various phases and purposes of education. In this way they form without special design a large co-operative system of universities, in which every student may have the special training or course he may desire, and in a better and freer way than if these universities were State institutions.

All these institutions are brought into conference by the Teachers' Association, of which all or most of the professors and teachers in the State are members, and which holds special and local meetings, as, for instance, the one at Silverton. The fact that all phases of education are thus represented and confer, for the general good of all, in these meetings, makes them of the highest value—they make the ESPRIT DE CORPS of the education of the State. But in order to continue such they must be kept free from personal vindictiveness, sectarian bigotry and official intermeddling.

It seems that a vindictive Station Agent and a Methodist fanatic get themselves on the School Board at Silverton, and refused the usual use of the school house for the Association meeting, if President Hosmer of the Liberal University, a charter member of the Association, was allowed to speak, after his name had been placed on the program and publicly announced. They caused the president of a Methodist University to be imported to take the time, and to give a long address on English, French and American history, which was ENGLISH, Anti-American and anti-republican from beginning to end. It should never be given before American teachers or scholars unless some American is there to answer it on the spot.

The professors and teachers of the Liberal University have at Salem, and everywhere and in every way, been received in all Teachers' Meetings on a par with every other member of the Association, and they ask no more and no less. This stupid and brutal discourtesy at their home must remain "singular," or the injustice and usurpation of it will sadly affect the independence, fairness and usefulness of the whole system of education in the State.
T. B. W.

Travels.

[Concluded from 6th page.]
to do indispensable work for the Liberal cause. Dr. Carus, to show his liberality and his love for the Liberal University, has donated many of his books to our library and now has presented the Torch of Reason with one hundred copies of Holyoake's "English Secularism," which will be given as premiums to yearly subscribers. I wish the friends of the Liberal University

would investigate the work of the Open Court. Address Dr. Paul Carus, 325 Dearborn St., Chicago.

I left Chicago for Rochelle, where I spent two days with Otto Wettstein, his wife and son at their beautiful and happy home. Nearly all Liberals are acquainted with Otto Wettstein and his business, but only a few know what a lovely wife and happy home he has. I am glad to be one of the fortunate few. Mr. Wettstein has sold out his store and is now turning his attention to the mail order business. If Liberals want any Freethought badges, or Ingersoll spoons, or any other jewelry, watches, or diamonds, they ought to write to Mr. Wettstein and see what he can do for them. He can convince you that there is no God or future life and that this is the twentieth century, and at the same time save you so much money on jewelry, etc., that it is equivalent buying yourself rich. Mr. Wettstein has a large head that requires a hat 8½ inches in diameter. This head was not made in vain, for it requires all this room to hold these wonderful thoughts and arguments, and there are no "rooms to let." Mr. and Mrs. Wettstein are very proud of their children, and from the pictures I saw I judge them to be justly proud. Master Bryant Wettstein, the youngest son, is at home. He is a bright fellow and bids fair to be "his father's own boy," while at the same time he resembles his mother. Mrs. Wettstein is not behind her husband so far as knowledge and common sense is concerned, while in beauty and attractiveness she far excels him. The two make an ideal pair and have an ideal home.

The second day at Rochelle the weather was beautiful, and Mrs. Wettstein was kind enough to escort me to a neighboring town, where Mr. D. A. Roberts and wife have a lovely home. Here is another ideal couple. Of course it is useless to add that they are enthusiastic Liberals and took a deep interest in the Liberal University. Mr. Roberts joined the Torch of Reason family and made a nice donation to the Liberal University. We dined at this home and spent the afternoon. The time to return came all too soon; and though we had to part company let us hope that our friendship will only change by increasing.

Mr. and Mrs. Roberts and Sport, the dog, accompanied us to the train, and I had the crowd pose for a picture, which I took with my kodak, and I am anxious to learn that it is a successful one, for it will be a group of which I shall be very proud. For fear that the dog was left out of the group I took another shot at him, and then we had to bid good-bye and take the train for Rochelle again.

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