Educational Column.

CONDUCTED BY PROF. W. C. HEWITT.

Every teacher in the Birmingham Union School takes and studies one or more educational journals—and teachers' meetings are held every Friday for the interchange of ideas about the best methods of government and teaching. Can the average school show as much professional spirit?

The lyceum for the winter term will be presided over by Grant Race, with Cora Brown as secretary. The question for discussion next Monday evening is: Resolved that there is in America a dangerous tendency to aristocracy. During the term a series of scientific talks will be given by the Principal, and it is hoped that the citizens may encourage the lyceum by attending often.

The question of a compulsory state law obliging every teacher to impart scientific instruction as to the effect of alcohol on the system, is being strongly agitated. The state teachers at Lansing, Dec. 29, gave their approval to a petition to the legislature, and the people in many towns have signified their desire to have this scientific instruction given. There is no doubt that reform to be lasting should begin with the young. Men and women may be restrained; children can be moulded. Law may compel a man to abstain from crime, but it does not touch the heart. Childhood is the fittest place for strengthening the moral nature and purifying the purpose.

Inasmuch as the compulsory law would begin with the young, it is wise; but there are other elements that enter into the question to impair its efficiency. Too often people, who neither understand the purpose or sympathize with the real work of the school, arbitrate in its affairs. Inexperience ought not to usurp the prerogatives of an intimate knowledge of the workings of our common school system. The special teaching of the effects of alcohol on the system, besides being a scientific question has a moral bearing; and since made prominent by special compulsory legislation, complications will arise that would be difficult to settle. If it be necessary to give special scientific instruction on the effects of alcohol, why is it not necessary to give the same instruction about tobacco? And the testimony of the physicians shows that more youths are injured by the vile cigarette smoking than by the use of whiskey. But why stop with tobacco? Special scientific instruction as to the effect of overeating certainly should be given; for rich food and overeating are enervating the American race, and are making a generation of consumptives and weak-kneed, and weak-brained young men. But why stop with these when every physician, every father and mother knows of half a dozen cankerous habits that spoil the physique and ruin the character of our children? A reform should not stop with its maiden half performed; if we advocate a principle we ought to follow it to its legitimate conclusion. Our physiologies mention all these things, and devote some space to their discussion; and this seems as much as ought to be attempted in a public school. The proposed innovation steps when knowledge has been imparted, and so is destitute of the lessons that would make it permanent in its effects. The scientific knowledge of spirituous liquors has little to do with temperance; those who can do so use this action the best are often the hardest drinkers. The young men who guzzle beer do so not so much from lack of head knowledge, as from lack of heart knowledge. A person destitute of a high aim in life will not be kept from evil associations and whiskey by any scientific instruction. He needs purgation of the heart, his purposes need changing, and this will never be done by compulsory scientific education. The tendency of all reforms is to ruffle the surface water only, while the depths of social and political abuses remain stagnant and unmoved.

Before scientific instruction will bring forth commensurate result it must be supplemented by those two things that are generally neglected. Steady work, and healthy associations. Let a young man be surrounded by degrading associations at home, let his early days be spent in idleness, and in the company of profligate companions, and all the instruction he has received about the effect of alcohol on the system, will be smeared at and forgotten.

The question being reduced to science, it would have to be taught in scientific ways; and the framers of this compulsory law seem to forget the confusion that would arise from the conflict of scientific authorities. To teach from a text book written by a man of one view would be partisan, and most unscientific. If the deleterious influence of alcohol were to be shown—and this is the only influence temperance reformers say it does have—it would be unfortunate for a teacher to refer his class for proof to scientific authority, and then have them read 'Johnston's Chemistry of Common Life,' "Alcohol," by W. S. Greenfield, M. D., "Stimulants and Narcotics" by Geo. M. Beard, M. D., and the Popular Science Monthly which all favor the moderate use of alcohol.

Every lover of country wants the curse of intemperance removed, but the ways ought to be subject to deliberate thought and mature judgement. We hope, if the law does pass, that it may be carried out in wisdom, and that fanatics may not shape its course, but that it may be guided by honest, intelligent men and experienced educators.

Say not, if people do good to us we will do good to them, and if people oppress us we will oppress them, but resolve that if people do good to you, you will do good to them, and if they oppress you, oppress them not again.

All persons suffering from coughs, colds, asthma, bronchitis, loss of voice, or any affection of the throat and lungs should call at Whitehead and Mitchell's drug store and get a bottle of Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption, which will convince them of its wonderful merit. Call early.

I shall close out my Hosiery, Ladies' Skirts & Hoods, at greatly reduced prices. L. T. Furman.

WARREN.

The weather is so cold that it takes the average farmer all the time to do chores and bring in wood.

Mr. Kidd has a bran fire new baby girl.

J. C. Mason's new saw-mill is running full blast.

Ice harvest is pretty nearly over with in this vicinity.

Hiram Gray and wife are out on a visit.

Thos. Gray and wife have moved back in the house with his mother on account of his poor health.

Mr. Brewer is home again. He found his brother much better than expected.

Mattie Brewer has gone to the city to spend the winter.

Aggie Reed was down visiting her sister, Mrs. Parker, last Sunday.

Rev. Mr. Dean has been confined to his house with rheumatism for a few days, but was able to preach Sunday.

Mrs. Embree Wilson and baby are quite sick with colds.

Mrs. McMullen is gaining slowly.

REDFORD

Mrs. Andrews recently delivered a week's lecturing at Sand Hill.

Bayard Crandell was home last week and took his sister Kate back with him to Grand Junction. She will be home this week. Will and Dud Carter for Goldsmith College on Jan. 8th.

Miss Sis Du Bois got rather more than her share of Christmas presents, a list of which would take half the Eccentric to hold.

Christmas-trees could be bought cheap in this vicinity, as there were a good many used in their proper season, but of no value now unless preserved in silver coled for future use.

Entertainments are coming in pretty fast at Sand Hill, but most of them are well attended.

Scarlet fever has been in Du Bois's family more and carried off two of D. J. Du Bois' children. Both were buried in one coffin on Jan. 6.

S. E. Dubois is slowly recovering from a severe attack of rheumatism having fortunately secured the services of Dr. Holcomb of Sand Hill.

Frank Wight and Tom Charlton think they like it better in old Redford than in the pine woods of Northern Michigan.

DRAYTON PLAINS.

There is a prospect of having a telegraph station at this place, which we do sadly need.

D. R. Shaw, is just the man to buy a place that is run down, for he has the means and will to fix it up, as he is doing with the Old Way farm.

Jas. s Riker had the misfortune to have a fine horse kicked in the hind leg and broken. This makes five good horses that has been lost in this neighborhood during a few months.

Church Social at Pete Stewart's Friday night, and the boys are getting their lips in condition for business.

Saturday just at night Peter Dawson's house, which was one mile east of Clintonville was burn d, with all the contents. Pete and wife were in Pontiac at the time, and had left six little children at home, but as good luck would have it none were injured. Poor plan to leave children to look with fire.

A few days ago a lot of school children were riding on Frank Hutchinson's sleigh and little Mary Hunter fell, striking her head with such force, as to injure her brain and she now is at the point of death. Mary is a daughter of Rufus Hunter, and they used to live on Ben Osmun's place.

An old gentleman told us the following good yarn. He was playing with Edwin Forrest at one time in old Park theater of New York, the "Merchant of Venice," and the "property man," had to produce the much needed knife, so one was borrowed from a grocer, and just as Forrest was whetting the knife on the floor, preparing to carve his pound of flesh, a little boy of the grocer's conce in and said "if Mr. Forrest was through with that knife he wanted it, for Mr. Jones had a customer waiting for a piece of cheese."

Royal and Ministerial Salaries.

London Truth.

In 1871 Sir Charles Dilke stated that the cost of royalty was excessive, and he estimated it at £1,000,000 per annum. He was not far wrong, as was conclusively proved when an additional grant was asked for Prince Leopold on the occasion of his marriage. But it by no means follows necessarily that Sir Charles wishes to disestablish royalty because he is in favor of partially disendowing it. In a country where the Prime Minister receives £5,000 per annum, and an agricultural laborer about 14s per week, it is conceivable that the sovereign might be respected with a yearly income of £50,000 per annum, and that each of her children might maintain themselves in perfect comfort on £4,000 per annum. In the days of Charles II the post of Prime Minister was worth about £100,000 per annum. I do not imagine that the respect for the incumbent of this post has diminished because the salary attached to it is only one-twentieth of that sum. It is strange that it is precisely those who prate the loudest about their loyalty who would reduce it to a mere question of pounds, shillings and pence. Nothing can be more despicable and more sordid than this golden cadism. For my part, I do not feel more respect for a monarch residing in a huge building and surrounded by a herd of lackeys than I should for the same monarch in a small cottage and with a couple of parlor maids.

There may be countless rational creatures in the universe besides mankind, and superior in happiness and intellect to man in his present condition, for it must be remembered that a very small portion of the universe is occupied by man.

Do Not be Deceived.

In these times of quack medicine advertisements every where, it is truly gratifying to find one medicine that is worthy of praise and which really does as recommended. Electric Bitters we can vouch for as being a true and reliable remedy, and one that will do as recommended. They invariably cure stomach and liver complaints, diseases of the Kidneys and Urinary difficulties. We know whereof we speak, and can truthfully say, give them a trial. Sold at fifty cents a bottle by Whitehead and Mitchell.

Wyoming's Natural Bridge.

The only rival, so far as known, to the far famed natural bridge in Virginia is to be found in the canyon of the La Prele creek, about nine miles south of Fort Fetterman, Wyoming. Prof. Gilbert E. Bailey, who recently visited this curiosity, says of it: 'The canyon has been formed by the passage of a creek through a long, irregular ridge that extends east and west from La Bonte to Red Buttes. We ride first up the long slope of this 'hog-back' until within a few feet of the narrow gorge, and take a good look around us. There is nothing suggestive of more than the usual scenery for this part of the country. To the north lies the beautiful but treacherous Platte river, twisting its way through a country that is by no means flat and unadorned; for it is not even and level like the Illinois prairie, nor has it the monotonous, seasick roll of Iowa. To the south the hills that gradually rise to form the Laramie range are cut up in all directions by deep twisting ravines, displaying on the precipitous sides no ornamental quarries of massive rock, and offering new phases of fantastic nakedness at every turn. A few steps forward and we look down 150 feet into the gorge the little stream has carved through the limestone and red triassic sandstones. Ninety feet below is the bridge, a band of soil-covered rock, hiding the water from our view as it spans the chasm from the face of the precipice to the level of the lower bank on the eastern side. A short ride down hill, a hurry scramble down a steep bluff, and we reach the level of the creek, and after a few minutes ride come directly in front of and below the massive bridge. The banks on the east side are 60 feet high, and one could ride from them directly on to the bridge. At some time in the past the little creek changed its course so that its waters were brought directly against this wall, and through a flume, it commenced the work that ended in this grand tribute to its power. It is certainly as perfect a bridge as could be desired. Its width is about 50 feet 150 feet span with the top of the low arch about 50 feet above the bed of the creek. The shape indicates that its carboniferous lime-stone and the massive character of the work guarantee its stability. The mountain towering above the bridge to the south, the view of the canyon through the arch, the glimpses of the water through the willows at the whole as lift up by the rich colors of morning and the murmur of the water made the scene one long to be remembered with pleasure. The canyon is full of interest to the geologist, as all of the rocks from the Laramie to the Carboniferous are exposed; it one follows the creek from the fond in the canyon. The old creek bed, now overgrown with brush, is about 300 feet to the southwest. It is evident too, that the water at one period flowed over the top of the bridge, rivaling Minnehaha's falls. We have the story of the stream as it cut its own path through this fissure of the world.'

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Ladies Call and See Them !

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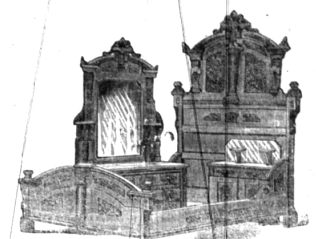

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