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SALT LAKE CITY, MARCH 20, 1903.

THE GENERAL CONFERENCE.

The Seventy-third annual conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will be held in the Tabernacle Salt Lake City, commencing on Saturday, April 4, 1903. A general attendance of the officers and members of the Church is requested.

JOSEPH F. SMITH,
JOHN R. WINDER,
ANTHON H. LUND,
First Presidency.

CHANGE OF FAST DAY.

As the General Conference will be in session on the first Sunday in April, it is deemed advisable that the fast, usually observed on the first Sunday in each month, be held on the last Sunday in March, 1903, in those Stakes and Wards where the officers and members in large numbers will attend the Annual Conference. This will apply particularly to the Salt Lake Stake of Zion and adjoining places. The Presidents of Stakes and Bishops at distant points will use their own judgment as to making the change for this occasion.

JOSEPH F. SMITH,
JOHN R. WINDER,
ANTHON H. LUND,

RELIGION CLASS OFFICERS' MEETING.

The Presidents of Stakes, Bishopric of wards, Stake and ward superintendents and members of the Stake Boards of Religion classes together with the officers and instructors are cordially invited to attend a meeting of Religion class workers to be held at Barratt Hall on Saturday, April 4, 1903, at 4:30 o'clock p. m.

ANTHON H. LUND,
RUDGER CLAWSON,
JOSEPH M. TANNER,
General Superintendency.
L. JOHN NUTTALL,
General Secretary.

A WRETCHED CANARD.

A rumor has been started that the authorities of the "Mormon" Church are endeavoring to obtain the release of Hooper Young on the ground of his insanity. Certain individuals and papers seem determined to connect, in some manner, the terrible tragedy in New York with the Church of which the defendant in the case was alleged to be a member. It is not true that the Church authorities, (or either of them) are or have been in any way associated with his defense, or effort if there be any, to obtain his release. In the first place Hooper Young has not been a member of the Church for several years. His father announced at the time of his son's arrest that he had not been connected with the Church for twelve years. In the next place the Church would not interfere in the case of a member who committed the crime of murder, for one of its rules, established by revelation, is that such an offender "shall be delivered up to the law of the land." And finally, nothing has been done by the Church in the present case one way or another, and the report now circulated is a wretched canard without the shadow of truth or excuse.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH.

The Board of Health is to be commended for its efforts to prevent the spread of infectious diseases by enforcing the laws and ordinances respecting disinfection and isolation. The law passed by the recent Legislature will doubtless aid the health officers throughout the State in promoting the public health. Everybody ought to comply with the regulations issued by the proper authorities, and endeavor to establish sanitary conditions in town and country.

Reports should be made to the health boards of cases of diphtheria, scarlet fever, smallpox and such diseases as are known to be contagious, and quarantine rules should be strictly observed. We put the disease that is most dreaded the last in the list, because experience has proven that it is less fatal than the others. There have been more deaths in this State from either of them and even from measles, and much worse after effects to survivors, than from smallpox, which is held up in such terror by the press. Every precaution possible ought to be observed as to each of them, and we emphasize all that can be said as to the course to be taken for their prevention.

We are informed, on good authority, that convalescing patients are permitted to go from the pesthouse freely, and ramble up the canyon where they meet with people on the road, are licked by dogs, and in many ways render themselves liable to spread disease. It is claimed also that some doctors and nurses are known to mingle with the public after emerging from sick rooms and before disinfection. All this criminal carelessness should be stopped or punished.

We notice that continual slurs are thrown out upon people who either have no faith in vaccination as a preventive of smallpox, or who object to compulsion in its use. This paper has always taken the position of maintaining liberty on this matter. Let those who favor vaccination adopt it. But do not force it upon unwilling victims to fanatical faith in its virtues. A contemporary spoils a good article on the enforcement of health regulations by the remark that:

"There are a few simple-minded persons who do not believe in vaccination. Their mental horizon is generally near the ground."

The list of eminent persons, regular physicians, scientists, philosophers, authors, men and women famous in literature, in art and in the learned professions generally, who are determinedly opposed to compulsory vaccination is a long one, embracing a host in England and America. And it includes many who have thoroughly investigated the whole subject, and have become convinced that the so-called sure preventive is a widespread fallacy. Among the latter is such a "simple minded person" as Herbert Spencer. His "mental horizon" is not commonly believed to be "generally near the ground." The following from his book, "Tracts and Comments," published in 1902 by Williams and Norgate, London, are here quoted in this connection:

"When once you interfere with the order of nature there is no knowing where the result will end, was the remark made in my presence by a distinguished biologist. There immediately escaped from him an expression of vexation at his lack of reticence, for he saw the various uses I might make of the admission.

Jenner and his disciples have assumed that when the vaccine virus has passed through the patient's system he is safe, or comparatively safe, against smallpox, and there the matter ends. I will not here say anything for or against this assumption. (Except, indeed, by quoting the statement of a well known man, Mr. Kegan Paul the publisher, respecting his own experience. In his Memories (pp. 260-1) he says, respecting his smallpox when adult, "I had had smallpox when a child, in spite of vaccination, and had been vaccinated but a short time before. I am the third of my immediate family who had smallpox twice, and with whom vaccination had always taken.) I merely propose to show that there the matter does not end. The interference with the order of nature has various sequences other than that counted upon. Some have been made known.

A Parliamentary Return issued in 1889 (No. 392) shows that comparing the quinquennial periods 1847-1853 and 1874-1878 there was in the latter a diminution in the deaths from all causes of infants under one year old, 6,600 per million births per annum; while the mortality caused by eight specific diseases, either directly communicable or exacerbated by the effects of vaccination, increased from 20,524 to 41,353 per million births per annum—more than double. It is clear that far more were killed by these other diseases than were saved from smallpox.

This was in the days of arm-to-arm vaccination, when medical men were certain that other diseases (syphilis, for instance) could not be communicated through the vaccine virus. Any one who looks into the Transactions of the Epidemiological Society of some thirty years ago, will find that they were suddenly convinced to the contrary by a dreadful case of wholesale syphilization. In these days of calf-lymph vaccination such dangers are excluded; not that of bovine tuberculosis, however. But I name the fact as showing what amount of faith is to be placed in medical opinion.

To the communication of diseases thus demonstrated, must be added accompanying effects. It is held that the immunity produced by vaccination implies some change in the components of the body; a necessary assumption. But now if the substances composing the body, solid or liquid or both, have been so modified as to leave them no longer liable to smallpox, is the modification otherwise inoperative? Will any one dare to say it produces no further effect than that of shielding the patient from a particular disease? You cannot change the constitution in relation to one invading agent and leave it unchanged in regard to all other invading agents. What must the change be? There are cases of unhealthy persons in whom a serious disease, as typhoid fever, is followed by improved health. But these are not normal cases; if they were, a healthy person would become more healthy by having a succession of diseases. Hence, as a constitution modified by vaccination is not made more able to resist perturbing influences in general, it must be made less able. Heat and cold and wet and atmospheric changes tend even to disturb the balance, as do also various foods, excessive exertion, mental strain. We have no means of measuring alterations in resisting power, and hence they commonly pass unremarked. There are, however, evidences of a general relative debility. Measles is a severer disease than it used to be, and deaths from it are very numerous. Influenza yields proof. Sixty years ago, when at long intervals an epidemic occurred, it seized but few, was not severe, and left no serious sequelae; now it is permanently established, affects multitudes in extreme forms, and often leaves damaged conditions. The disease is the same, but there is less ability to withstand it.

There are other significant facts. It is a familiar biological truth that the organs of sense and the teeth arise out of the dermal layer of the embryo. Hence abnormalities affect all of them; blue-eyed cats are deaf and hairless dogs have imperfect teeth. (Origin of Species, Chapter I.) The like holds of constitutional abnormalities caused by disease. Syphilis in its earlier stages is a skin disease. When it is inherited the effects are malformation of teeth and in later years iritis (inflammation of the iris). Kindred relations hold with other skin-diseases; instance the fact that scarlet fever is often accompanied by loosening of the teeth, and the fact that with measles often go disorders, sometimes temporary sometimes permanent, of both eyes and ears. May it not be thus with another skin disease—that which vaccination gives. If so, we have an explanation of the frightful degeneracy of teeth among young people in recent times; and we need not wonder at the prevalence of weak and defective eyes among them. Be these suggestions true or not, one thing is certain:—the assumption that vaccination changes the constitution in relation to smallpox and does not otherwise change it is sheer folly. A high authority, Sir James Paget, in his lectures (4th ed. p. 39) says:—"After the vaccine and other infectious or inoculable diseases, it is, most probably, not the tissues alone, but the blood as much or more than they, in which the altered state is maintained; and in many cases it would seem that, whatever materials are added to the blood, the stamp once impressed by one of these specific diseases is retained." Here is a distinct admission, or rather assertion, that the constitution is changed. Is it changed for the better? If not, it must be changed for the worse.

We are well aware that the consensus of opinion among regular physicians, in the highest orthodox medical colleges, and in standard publications is strongly in favor of vaccination. For their views we must entertain high respect. We do not fling at any of them the epithets which some of them hurl at people who dissent from the conclusions they have reached through a common course of training. Like the orthodox in religion, most of them have accepted the teachings of the standards and think them beyond intelligent dispute. But we are of the opinion that, considering the utter repudiation in later times of medical theories once considered as established, and practices formerly unquestioned but now utterly discarded, a little less dogmatism and much more inquiry into "the other side" would be more scientific and less pragmatic.

It will be found on inquiry that there are hosts of investigators whose "mental horizon" reaches quite as far as that of their sapient detractors, and who have studied the subject from every standpoint, who have sifted the testimonies, arguments and padded statistics commonly advanced by the advocates of compulsion, and have obtained therefrom very small residue of reliable fact and verity. They have the courage of their convictions, and proclaim them in the face of a scoffing crowd. They are not to be classed among the ignorant and "simple minded," but their names will be found in the annals of the world, among the reformers of their times, who battled for the truth and helped to deliver mankind from the errors of ages.

It does not aid any cause in the estimation of the thoughtful, to sneer at those who have reason to dispute its authority or its worth. There are two sides to the vaccination question, as future events and advancement will fully demonstrate. We can all agree, however in supporting the laws for the preservation of health and the stamping out of contagious diseases, and in that good work there should be perseverance and unity.

MODERN MIRACLES.

Recently an announcement was made in a Paris journal, that Professor Peter Steins had succeeded in making the blind see; that is, he had invented an apparatus by which impressions of form and color were conveyed to the brain, as by the eye and the optical nerves. Now it is claimed that a young American, Mr. Hutchinson, has succeeded in making the deaf hear.

The description of the hearing apparatus says that the sound is projected into the ear by means of a transmitter, or ear piece, and an electric battery. It is conveyed to the brain without the aid of the outer ear.

Some interesting experiments have been made. Three patients were operated on, one blind, deaf and dumb, and one blind, deaf and dumb from birth, and one who had lost sight and hearing from exposure a dozen years ago. The first, a small boy, heard his father say "Papa" in an ordinary conversational tone and at once repeated it, first in sign language and then in imitation of his father's voice as near as possible in his childish treble. The girl heard a Sousa march played on a piano at the other end of the room and beat time with her fingers on the table. The third, blind, deaf and dumb from birth, reached out her arms towards the piano as it was played and heard herself call "Mamma" in imitation of her mother's voice.

We hope these reports are all founded on facts. What a boon to all mankind, if the blind could be made to see and the deaf to hear in this manner! The sum total of human misery would thereby be considerably reduced.

It should also be noted that when scientists succeed in performing miracles by "natural means," the outcry against miracles must cease among rational beings. For when certain results are achieved by some means, who can say that similar results may not also be achieved by other means with which other persons may be familiar?

A BRIEF REJOINDER.

When the Tribune endeavors to misrepresent the "News" and is caught in direct lying, it usually falls back on inferences. This is its latest:

"The News said, apparently in derision of the Commercial club, that 'continued drouth is not to be prevented by legislation, nor can the clouds be compelled to drop moisture by commercial or financial combinations,' but the City Council was omitted from the impotences. That left the inference, which we suggested, that the News considered the City Council, whose cause it espoused, to be the lord of the clouds, the compeller of moisture."

The alleged mind that could draw such an "inference" must be sadly distraught. The City Council is a legislative body, but is not able to compel the clouds to drop moisture; ergo the City Council is "the lord of the clouds." That is the reasoning of our wonderfully veracious and astonishingly logical morning contemporary, which we do not omit from the "impotences." As it seems to have paid some attention to our Biblical quotation on Thursday, we will cite one more passage or two of scripture for its meditation: See Prov. XXVII, 22; also Rev. XXI, the latter [illegible] of the eighth verse.

Happy he who has not had a "touch" of the grip.

The senate has done its part in doing the country's duty toward Cuba.

Never put off till tomorrow what you can get some one to do today.

About the only thing that cannot be watered is the water supply.

Senator Heyburn is the heaviest man in the senate. And he is a man of most pleasant weigh.

Advice seems about the best thing for a cold. At least more of it is given that anything else.

It is too cold for the flowers to come forth and blush unseen and waste their sweetness on the desert air.

"One of the needs of this city is cheaper coal," says a contemporary. Also a smoke consumer with every ton sold.

It costs twelve hundred dollars to fire the sixteen-inch gun at Sandy Hook. Which fact shows that war is a very expensiv game.

Admiral Bob Evans is going to Germany. He will not be accompanied by Admiral Coglan, famous through his singing of "Hoch der Kaiser."

According to the New York Post Little Rhody is all broken out with the pustules of corruption. She should be isolated so as not to spread the contagion.

Dr. Crum has not been confirmed or his nomination rejected. Perhaps the senate was at sea in his case. If so it is a clear case of a Crum of bread being cast upon the waters and will return after many days.

In Indiana the industrious and law-abiding Whitecappers have undertaken to exterminate the bacillus of indolence. Twelve of them took a citizen who was infected, tied him to a fence post and beat him until every lazy bacillus in his body was thought to be reduced to a pulp. The remedy is believed to have been efficacious in this particular case.

Divorce statistics recently compiled show that the largest number of divorces are granted in Chicago, which has an average of 1,800 a year. This is said to be more than double the average of New York. The only city which makes no returns of divorces granted is Charleston, South Carolina being the state which has the longest consistent record of opposition to divorces.

Attention is called to an account in another column of a very bad practice that obtains among some of the school boys. They no doubt do not intend to do any one any harm, but in this case they came very near doing their subject a permanent injury. The boy is partially paralyzed as a result, and the doctor says he might have been killed. This one regrettable case should serve as a warning that there may be none like it. Let the boys desist from trying to find out "how strong your father is." It is too dangerous a game.

A great many Germans view with alarm the encouragement given to dueling between army officers. And no wonder. For it is really no better than common murder, tolerated by the highest authority. The army should be the right hand of the law. The members of it should first of all learn to respect and obey the law. If the soldiers, and particularly the officers, trample upon the law, how can others be supposed to respect it. One does not respect a code that is trampled into the gutter by those whose chief business it is to protect it and keep it unstained. Dueling ought to be banished both from the army and the universities, as a most offensive remnant of barbarous times.

NYM CRINKLE.

Boston Herald.

There's no doubt that the late Nym Crinkle was a versatile genius. He was not only a dramatic and musical critic, playwright and composer, but an all-round newspaperman as well. He wrote several books, too. He also lectured. He studied law, theology and medicine and was entitled to all the rights and privileges of either of those professions. By way of avocations he painted pictures and collected rare books and bric-a-brac. What might he not have accomplished had he been less diffusive and turned his talents in one direction!

Springfield Republican.

Mr. Wheeler proved that a critic is not necessarily a creator, through a play which he wrote for Lester Wallack, and which lost for the manager some thousands of dollars. He was part author also of some popular melodramas, which made money, but were of no literary or dramatic merit. While Mr. Wheeler got between covers in "The Chronicles of Milwaukee," "The Primrose Path of Dalliance," "The Toltec Cup," and so on, he is best remembered for his vast product of miscellaneous newspaper and magazine work. The single sentence with which, in a review, "Nym Crinkle" routed the tiresome Eli Perkins, lingers in memory. Wheeler said that, "armed only with a sense of rectitude and a fine-tooth comb, he had come into the field to remove Eli from the body of art."

Milwaukee Wisconsin.

How the late Andrew C. Wheeler, who for several years of the later fifties and early sixties was the Sentinel's city editor, found the nom de plume he made so well known, was told in the Sentinel of Sept. 10, 1899, thus: "The recent visit of Alpha Child to his old-time comrades, the elder newspaper men of this city, recalled the fact that so long ago as 1858-9 he was correspondent of the Sentinel, traveling through Wisconsin and Minnesota, many long distances in the Lake Superior region being traversed on foot. The Sentinel's files show that Mr. Child was the original "Nym Crinkle," and that was the signature to his letters above mentioned. This is also well remembered by Louis Bleyer, who was then foreman of the Sentinel office. Mr. Child afterward gave that nom de plume to A. C. Wheeler, then city editor of the Sentinel, who has used it for many years in connection with his musical and dramatic sketches in New York papers."