

THE COURIER

LINCOLN, NEBR., SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1900.

THE COURIER,
Official Organ of the Nebraska State
Federation of Women's Clubs.

ENTERED IN THE POSTOFFICE AT LINCOLN AS
SECOND CLASS MATTER.

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY

THE COURIER PRINTING AND PUBLISHING CO

Office 1132 N street, Up Stairs.

Telephone 384.

SARAH B. HARRIS, Editor

Subscription Rates—In Advance.

Per annum.....	\$1 00
Six months.....	75
Three months.....	50
One month.....	20
Single copies.....	05

THE COURIER will not be responsible for voluntary communications unless accompanied by return postage. Communications, to receive attention, must be signed by the full name of the writer, not merely as a guarantee of good faith, but for publication if advisable.

OBSERVATIONS.

Adolescence.

School patrons, that is, the mothers and fathers of the children and youth in the grades and high-school, should attend the teachers' institutes, held from time to time in this city. It is admitted that an experienced teacher, who has for years put her mind to studying children, their growth, idiosyncracies, and the general phenomena of the processes of education, is, and becomes more and more, an authority upon the training of children. Like the gardener or the florist, who studies plants to find out just how much water, sunlight and what quality of soil will bring them to the highest productive point in the shortest time, the teachers study children, that they may make them all, the large, fragrantest flower of the century.

Occasionally a teacher ventures to take Lord Bacon's advice. Such a one studies children with no dogmatic preconceptions and his instruction follows closely the result of observation. The hundreds of youth whom he instructs are easily classified into types, and the human stock sent to him is not run into a machine regardless of temperament and original gifts or deficiencies.

Dr. O'Shea was the feature of last week's institute. He is the teacher of psychology in the university of

Wisconsin, and is one of the happy men born to a vocation, and finding it without wasting his time on some other man's job. He has studied children and youth at first hand, and it is a pity that every mother and father in Lincoln who occasionally throw up their hands in despair over their sons and daughters, did not hear his lectures on the phenomena of adolescence. The parents who heard Dr. O'Shea appreciate the trials of the high school teacher and the strength of their own position towards their children, more clearly.

Dr. O'Shea speaks rapidly with an Hibernian unexpected turn to phrases, wholly his own. He lectured on the mental and physical phenomena of adolescence with the quick sympathy and ingenuity for meeting emergencies that characterize the Irishman at his best. Dr. O'Shea has made a collection of contributions from the young men and women in his class concerning their reminiscences of adolescence. Nearly all record the dreams, peculiar to youth, of falling from high towers and precipices and of terrified, sudden awakenings from situations of great peril. Self confidence, a tendency to philosophize and to dispute authority are characteristic of adolescence, and Dr. O'Shea thought the universal tendency of high-school students to dispute authority and question doctrine should be met by increasing their responsibilities and by making the student body apparently self-governing.

Liquor and tobacco are stimulants and Dr. O'Shea thought they inhibit the mechanism of the brakes or the quieting organisms. The storm and stress of youth particularly needs the medicine of nature. Alcohol and tobacco are irritants and throw the system out of balance and harmony. The emotional life of adolescence is the time when the heart "leaps up," and only the boys grown poets remember it distinctly.

Dr. O'Shea said the Sunday-school was not fulfilling its mission, that it was out of touch with practical life, and uninteresting to adolescence. A religious view of life is especially helpful to youth, who are afloat on a wide, angry sea. Religion is a pilot and should control, more than it does, the time when the vision widens, when poets and prophets are made or destroyed and when the yielding to temptation means a life of feebleness.

A Teacher's English.

One of the institute lecturers, from out of town, was so unfamiliar with the medium of expression used by scholars in this country that she was heard with some impatience by the Lincoln teachers, most of whom have corrected the colloquial inelegancies she used so freely. She said to the teachers who looked more respectful than they felt, "we may arrive at a scheme," that "Reading which was more of an element some time ago,"

that "that thing is not based and is not related to the child's experience," that "we treasure it (the word independent) up and roll it around as a rich thing," that we must do the thinking along the lines of the present thought," that "I don't believe, and more and more I am growing to believe, that the reciting of lessons is the most important work," that "We have gone away and forgotten it all to a great extent," that "Something causes me to turn a thought towards," etc. etc. Such muddy thinking and slovenly speaking is only excusable in a man or woman who is not listened to and imitated by scores of children throughout the school year. The lectures were innocuous to the Lincoln teachers, most of whom knew better. But such examples and such evident inability to recognize simple, strong, lucid English are cultivating a patois which we hear in the shops, on the streets and read in letters and daily papers. It is idle to expect a stimulating influence from a teacher who talked as this teacher talked. She has no taste for literature herself or twenty years' association with the great works of great men would have articulated her thought and purified her speech. It is invidious to select an example, and if it were not that this teacher's lecture embodied many of the faults of which The Courier has been complaining, in public school teachers, this one woman would not be alluded to here. Her duties are administrative and she is not in close contact with the children in the city which employs her. Her executive ability is said to be remarkable, and this criticism does not concern, therefore, the service she is employed by the school board to render.

By Insinuation.

Why should Mr. Bryan endeavor to convince the laboring man that injunctions are tyrannical expedients applicable only to him? Mr. Bryan has studied law, he has lived more than forty years, and he knows better. Frequently injunctions are used by citizens of a town to prevent a railroad from laying its tracks in a locality which the immediate neighborhood of steam engines would make unpleasant for residence purposes. Railroads do not frequently attempt to lay tracks on the hills and in the remote and quiet places which rich people select as sites for dwellings. The humbler homes of laboring men are built nearer the factories, depots and stations where the freight is discharged from the cars. Near the edges of congested traffic districts the working men build their homes and have prevented many an expansion of the railroad yard into their door yards by injunctions. Yet Mr. Bryan said in his speech on Labor Day at Chicago: "The meanest thief and the most brutal murderer are entitled to trial by jury; why should this right be denied the laboring man?" "The mean-

est thief" and "the most brutal murderer," if the two men could be found, would undoubtedly be discovered in squalid surroundings. It is not likely that they are on any city or county assessor's books. They are, therefore, most likely poor men themselves—the condition that Mr. Bryan so constantly offers his aid and advice to ameliorate. Nothing has yet been found more unprofitable than vice, and burglars, murderers and drunkards finally dwell in the dark, dank, bad-smelling places of the earth. It is there that the police hunt them down, and Mr. Bryan implies that the republican party has taken these outcasts, who are forever fleeing from daylight and seeking holes to hide in, under its wing, and granted them privileges that are refused to the carpenter, stone-mason, engineer, day laborer or skilled workman.

The history of injunctions has yet to be written, but I am sure that the records do not indicate that the defendant is always a poor man and plaintiff a rich man, trying to restrain the poor man from coming into his own or enjoying his equal rights.

The State Fair.

The pomological exhibit at the Nebraska State Fair was remarkable. Apples, peaches, plums and melons were large, sound and sweet. The apples and peaches were especially fine. Nebraska has taken one national premium for the best exhibit of apples and an international second prize for apples. It was a favorite saying of the oldest inhabitants, that fruit would not grow in Nebraska. It may still be a favorite saying with calamity howlers, who, with their first breath on earth, vowed that that special spot where they inhaled it was the most plague-ridden, barrenest spot on the globe. But to the normal man who can laugh at a grass-hopper, Nebraska's fruits and grains are the best that are grown. The State Fair is a yearly demonstration of the fruitfulness of the soil and the high average of sunshine and shower. This year the fair has been a success, both in attendance, exhibits and receipts, and the managers are confident that another year will put the association squarely on its feet.

Grass-Fed Cattle.

Stock-men in Kansas are trying a new menu on cattle. The expense of feeding cattle entirely on corn reduces the margin of profit, and if the amount of corn fed in a year can be reduced without reducing the weight of the animal or the quality of the beef, the stock-man's problem is answered. The hill-grass of parts of Kansas and of some regions of Nebraska north of the Platte is very strong. Underneath the soils, producing these grasses, are chunks of lime, the grass is wiry and nourishes the cattle so that they bring nearly the same price in the Chicago market as