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THE Chicago doctor who has been performing surgical experiments upon his family to illustrate the anæsthetic properties of cocaine, probably does not owe his insanity to that useful drug. The incidental remark of a reporter that Dr. Bradley was also addicted to the use of morphia, may account for the mental condition which led him to the promiscuous employment of cocaine to an extent that is certainly novel, if nothing else can be said for it. It is also probably an error to say that Dr. Bradley has made "physical wrecks" of his children by the use of cocaine. A man might very readily reduce his family to the condition of "physical wrecks" by carving slices out of them, either with or without the use of an anæsthetic, though the wreck would probably be more complete without the anæsthetic than with it. Cocaine, like a great many other new remedies, so-called, has been vaunted somewhat beyond its actual deserts; but within lines now pretty clearly defined it is unquestionably of very great value and entirely harmless. Its special use is in its peculiar power of producing insensibility when locally applied to the surface of a mucous membrane, and this without any constitutional effects whatever. It thus renders painless operations upon the eye, in the nose or the mouth, or in other sensitive parts, and removes that state of congestion and hyperæsthesia, or extreme sensitiveness, that is the cause of so much suffering. Within this field of the almost unique properties of cocaine have proved it to be of very great importance, and it is a pity that anything so useful to humanity should be discredited by the absurdities of a crazy man. —Philadelphia Times.

In Kansas, when a man goes to the drug store to get something good for his stomach he has to sign a paper setting forth his ailment briefly. The Chicago Tribune man who has been looking over the liquor registers in some of the Topeka and Leavenworth drug stores, finds that some Kansans drink a few gills of whiskey for toothache, some for backache, some for "general debility," and one honest invalid records it that he wants the medicine "to hide his sorrow."

The new Oxford paper, the Standard, by W. T. Lindsay, is "the latest." The Standard makes quite a creditable initial appearance.

Elwood Citizen: Jack Moore, the gentlemanly and efficient conductor who has been on the Elwood-Holdrege run since the completion of this branch, has been changed to a main line run, with headquarters at McCook, and George Whitman, of Oxford, supercedes him. We are sorry to lose Jack, though our loss is his gain and we imagine any promotion the B. & M. may give him will be merited.

Some settlers in Hitchcock county have foolishly organized a sort of a vigilance committee to protect themselves against the depredations of range cattle. And mauling, slaughtering and impounding stock is being indulged in, especially in the northwest part of the county. Cooler and better judgment should prevail among these settlers. At this season of the year it is obviously impossible to move the herds out of the county. It were just as impossible a thing to "hold" stock, and the only alternative is that the cattle be permitted to range at large until spring seed time, when stockmen will round them up, preparatory to moving them to greener fields. A little common sense exhibited on the part of settler and stockman will obviate most of the existing trouble, and we prescribe the medicine.

From press dispatches we glean that Sparks of the general land office has finally and sensibly arrived at the conclusion that Sparks, no matter how brilliant, is not paramount to the laws of the United States, and that the doughty commissioner has "taken water" on a number of his recent rulings. The opinion prevails generally, and is being voiced widely by the press, that the commissioner's ruling on the homestead law, which ruling seems to be in direct contradiction to the laws of the United States, will be set aside by the secretary. Further, that the issuance of patents, where proofs shows "continuous" residence, as well as those cases of contest and upon which the department has passed, has been ordered, and additional clerks employed for that purpose. Sparks will shortly be where the ex-commissioner was when he stepped down and out.

Our people will not forget the art lecture by Prof. French, on the evening of December 15th.

The McCook Tribune.

SUPPLEMENT.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10.

ADDITIONAL LOCAL.

North Platte Tribune: We have it from good authority that the contract for the grading of the Holdrege extension of the B. & M. road has been let from Elwood in Gosper county to Curtis in Frontier county, a distance of about 30 miles. The road runs from Elwood in a northwesterly direction nearly to the southeastern corner of this county, thence nearly west through range 26 and a portion of 27, dipping abruptly southward to a point near Curtis in range 28, some six miles south of the south line of Lincoln county.

Gazette-Journal: The organization known as the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers are making extensive arrangements for a grand ball and banquet to be held in McCook in the near future. The necessary committees have been appointed and all are working heroically to make this, their inaugural ball a success beyond the peradventure of a doubt. Invitations will be issued to the friends of this organization all over Nebraska and it promises to be the largest gathering of "lever handlers" and their friends ever held in the state. Extensive preparations are already being made to entertain and provide for the visitors to that magic city, and the ball and banquet.

Hayes Centre News: The county and precinct officers elect are required to file their official bonds and be sworn in on the first Thursday after the first Tuesday in January, which will be the 7th. The county commissioners will then be in regular session. Remember the date January 7th. * * The extension of the Burlington & Missouri from Holdrege northwest, which was designed to strike the Union Pacific at Ogallala, has taken a new shoot, according to Colorado papers. The intention now seems to be to run the line midway between the main lines of the Burlington & Missouri and Union Pacific, cross the latter at Sterling, Colo., and strike out northwest for Cheyenne, the ultimate terminus of the branch.

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