

tion is carried out. In all England and Wales, for some years previous to 1853, the proportional mortality by smallpox was 21.9 to 1,000 deaths from all causes; in London it was but 16 to 1,000; in Ireland, where vaccination is much less general, it was 49 to 1,000, while in Connaught it was 60 to 1,000. On the other hand, in a number of European states where vaccination is more or less compulsory, the proportionate number of deaths from smallpox varies from 2 per 1,000 of all causes in Bohemia, Lombardy, Venice, and Sweden, to 8.33 per 1,000 in Saxony. Although in many instances persons who had been vaccinated were attacked with smallpox in a more or less modified form, it was noticed that the persons so attacked had been commonly vaccinated many years previously. It would seem that the mere lapse of time in many cases is sufficient to destroy the protective influence of vaccination. The question very naturally arises: For how long a period does the protective influence last? To this it is impossible to give a definite answer: it varies with different individuals. The same thing happens with regard to the protective influence of an attack of smallpox itself; in most persons it lasts for life; many, after a period more or less prolonged, are liable to a second attack; while cases have occurred in which a third attack has proved fatal. The period of puberty is generally thought to produce such changes in the system as to destroy the protective influence of vaccination. In all cases revaccination would seem to be a test of the loss or presence of the protective influence; to render this test certain, where revaccination does not succeed on first trial, it should be a second time carefully performed. In the Prussian army in 1848, 28,859 individuals were revaccinated; among whom, however, in 6,373 the cicatrices of the preceding vaccination were indistinct or invisible. Of these, 16,862 had regular vesicles, 4,404 irregular vesicles, and in 7,753 cases no effect was produced. On a repetition of the vaccination in these last, it succeeded in 1,579 cases. Among the whole number successfully revaccinated either in 1848 or in previous years, there occurred but a single case of varioloid, and not one case of smallpox; while seven cases of varioloid occurred either among the recruits or among those revaccinated without success.

OLD FRIENDS AND NEW.

The Christmas numbers of the magazines are out, and one is struck with something unfamiliar in their appearance; they present novel combinations, corresponding perhaps to a change in our interests as a people. The mother and child are still there, but alternating with generals or admirals in uniform, whose names were not known to us last Christmas; the

"shepherds keeping their flocks by night" are there, but in strange proximity to pictures of battles in Cuba or the Soudan; and the angelic song of peace on earth to men of good will is mingled with, if not overborne by, stories in English of victorious warfare. The angels still have the frontispiece, the post of honor, in most of the magazines, but in one they are relegated to the back pages, among the theatrical people, while *The Cosmopolitan* has neither angels, shepherds, *Wise Men* nor any other allusion to the traditions of the season though it has plenty of war matter. Altogether it is half ludicrous, half sad.

WHY ANOTHER PARTY?

J. Sterling Morton thinks the country needs a new party. But it seems to have two already. If the present republican party and the present democratic party are not new parties, what are they?—*Louisville Courier-Journal*.

They are drunk!

Education which will make men and women capable of living most completely in this world is not always to be secured in colleges. That knowledge which is most useful is not always the most ornamental and that which is most ornate is not generally the most useful.

CLASS LEGISLATION.

Some newspapers and some orators protest against class legislation in one sentence and in the next tell what the state ought to do for the poor man. THE CONSERVATIVE can see no reason for legislating in behalf of either the rich or the poor. In a government like this the poor may soon become rich. And the rich may with equal celerity become poor.

All that the government ought to do is to give every man, woman and child an equal opportunity to get wealth by industry, economy and intelligent management and temperance.

There should be no laws discriminating against corporate capital. All that legislation can do legitimately is to protect every class of citizens equally in their property, their pursuit of happiness, and their civil and religious rights.

Social advancement and exaltation must be a normal growth. The arts and sciences and all well-directed efforts for intellectual and industrial development are paving the way for higher and better living by all the people of the United States.

The wealthy citizen of one hundred years ago did not and could not, with all his money, have one-half the comforts in his house, one-tenth the conveniences in traveling that a thrifty day laborer in Nebraska City enjoys in 1898. In cottages owned by factory-employed men and women in Nebraska City, the comfort of gas light, electric light and pure water is always present.

But in 1798 not even the Astors and Girards could have such luxuries.

The best cabin passage across the Atlantic a hundred years ago did not furnish as much of luxury and satisfactions as the steerage in one of the first-class steamers of today.

The inland traveler of the United States one hundred years ago paid more than ten times as much per mile for transportation as is now paid to a palace car, and twenty times as much time was then consumed in making any journey. The improved transportation of our day by which "the poor and the weak," in whose behalf persons pursuing office so often talk, are carried from crowded populational centers out into the pure air of the country and to fresh lands where labor is needed, is the result of incorporated capital, which has done more for humanity than all the social reform societies on earth.

Thoughtful men do much more for the race than talkful men. The former help men to help themselves. The latter teach men to look for help from others, especially from legislation and the government.

"If words like wise and foolish, thrifty and extravagant, prudent and negligent, have any meaning in language, then it must make some difference how people behave in this world, and the difference will appear in the position they acquire in the body of society, and in relation to the chances of life. They may then be classified in reference to these facts. Such classes will always exist; no other social distinctions can endure. If then, we look to the origin and definition of these classes, we shall find it impossible to deduce any obligations which one of them bears to the other. Class distinctions simply result from the different degrees of success with which men have availed themselves of the chances which were presented to them."

"Instead of endeavoring to redistribute the acquisitions which have been made between existing classes, our aim should be to increase, multiply and extend the chances."

This is the work of civilization. Remove old errors, abolish old abuses. Thus make new chances for new developments in the social and industrial world.

Every improvement in education, science, art or government expands man's chances on earth. But this expansion does not guarantee equality. Some will profit, some will neglect. The greater the chances the more unequal will be the fortunes between intelligent and industrious men on one side and ignorant and idle men on the other. And this is just, this is right. Legislation could not change it if it would and would not if it could. The decree in the great contest of life, uttered by nature and inspired by logical truth is, may the best man win!