

Hellen vs. Anderson, a case tried at the last October term of the appellate court of the state of Illinois, First district. And from it THE CONSERVATIVE extracts the following:

"Appellant has with much interest examined the fourteen pages of appellee's brief herein, and soliciting the favor begs to say: It reminds him of the Nebraska farmer, who mixed sawdust with his chicken feed, and imagining the results satisfactory, discontinued the use of grains and meal altogether, and fed his poultry entirely on sawdust. Soon after adopting this novel scheme he set a hen with fifteen eggs. In due time she brought off fourteen chickens, thirteen of which had wooden legs, and the fourteenth was a red-headed woodpecker."

BOGUS WISDOM. There is some bogus money afloat in this country most of the time, but there is bogus wisdom current all of the time. There is punishment for passing counterfeit coins and currency, but there is no penalty for circulating bogus wisdom.

This is a misfortune to all mankind. It is particularly a misfortune to the United States mankind and specifically disastrous to Nebraska mankind just at this time.

The state suffered from the bogus wisdom which pertained to money, its functions, and value, in the years 1895, 1896 and 1897, and pervaded and temporarily tainted many of the citizens. Bogus wisdom, like bogus money, is, however, finally detected, though not with the ease and celerity that catches counterfeit currency. Bogus coins do less harm to a people than bogus wisdom. The former debase commerce and defraud men of material things. The latter degrades intelligence and cheats men out of the truth. Bogus money is generally set afloat by mentally deformed or morally dwarfed men. Bogus wisdom is scattered by the same class of unfortunates. The mint of the United States is emulated and simulated by the counterfeiters of metallic money. And the wisdom and learning of the schools and universities are imitated by presumptuous dullards and numskulls who circulate misinformation. Without thought, study, or the acquirement of any special knowledge, the makers of counterfeit wisdom flood the country with all sorts of heresies.

Just at the present moment in Nebraska this class of "shovers of the queer" information are attending to health matters generally and the medical profession particularly as to its duties and proprieties in handling and repressing smallpox.

Jenner himself and all the experiences of a century of vaccination are denounced. The slight illness, nausea and loss of time caused by inoculation are decried as a remedy worse than the

disease. In the face of millions of facts against their truth, statements are made of the inefficacy of vaccination and the ill results which follow it. Bogus wisdom in parts of Nebraska during the last three months has cost communities hundreds of thousands of dollars in money, much annoyance and terribly endangered the public health.

The present legislature ought to give Nebraska a good sanitary code—an efficient system of health laws. And among them should be compulsory vaccination, compulsory sanitary ventilation and drainage for all school-houses, theatres, churches, courthouses and other public buildings. And there should be penalties for the violation of any health law. That penalty should be severe. There is no function of government equal to the preservation of the health and life of the citizen.

DESCENDING GRATITUDE. Many years ago THE CONSERVATIVE saw a man break through the ice on the Missouri river and whirl under the cold currents and out of sight in less than a minute. But an intrepid and experienced riverman flung a log pole over the channel and when the unfortunate emersionist came to the surface he grasped and held thereunto until safely pulled ashore. As soon as speech came to the irrigated and refrigerated gentleman he proclaimed his everlasting gratitude, declared the riverman the savior of his life and the to-be-recipient of his largest generosity. Soon he was taken into the house and dried and warmed. Then he began to aver that he believed he could and would have gotten out alone and that really he had saved his own life and was under obligations to nobody.

The republican party was in deep water going under the ice; McKinley, Hanna and all in 1896. Gold democrats saved them from political drowning. McKinley and all the rest immediately gave thanks and recognized their deliverers. But they are dry and warm now. They declare they saved themselves.

THE MANNER IN WHICH INDIANS DISPOSE OF CRIMINAL OFFENCES.

Indians have an unwritten law relating to murder, and it is as rigidly observed, as the laws of the Medes and Persians. If one Indian kills another of his, or her, own tribe, the one nearest related to the murdered may kill the murderer, if he or she can be found within ten days. If not found, the next nearest relative may be killed instead, and so on in like relation while subjects can be found.

These offences, however, are more frequently than otherwise, compromised in several ways. If a man be killed leaving a widow, a new husband may be substituted if mutually agreed to; and vice versa a new wife for a widower. A

mutually agreed upon number of horses can be given in liquidation. Or an acceptable feast given the whole band of which the murdered individual was a member, either by him or her the offender; or their friends, will settle the trouble. Often one or more children are offered and accepted as a recompense.

NASTY HAVANA. Captain Sigsbee, writing in the January Century of the destruction of the Maine, says that the water of Havana harbor is so foul a fluid that articles that were recovered after having been submerged in it could not be handled with safety. Clothing was burned or given to the (acclimated) poor, everything of metal, including the big guns, was washed with antiseptics, and the utmost care had to be taken of the health of the divers. It has always been understood that both the harbor and city of Havana were in an indescribably filthy condition; but anyone who wishes to know the details, can find them distinctly set forth in an article in the January Forum by the late Colonel Waring's private secretary. There is an impression that a Spaniard at large in a row-boat on the Atlantic would neglect the sanitary privileges offered by the ocean; this idea seems to be confirmed by what the writer tells of his observations in Havana. He calls a spade a spade, and makes it perfectly clear that the town would be pretty offensive to ordinarily delicate senses.

It has not been so long since our people emerged from the same stage, that we need be particularly indignant with the poor Cubans; where our interests come in is in the fact that the putrid refuse of this city is the source of the world's supply of yellow fever. This has always been a danger to us, even with the limited traffic with Cuba that has heretofore existed; as it is probable that this will be enormously increased, and that immediately, by both commerce and pleasure-travel, it is evident that the matter must be dealt with, or we are directly menaced with a terrible visitation for the summer of 1899. Furthermore, the enterprising young northern men and women who are sure to flock to Havana to take in hand the development of the island along its new lines, will simply be taking their lives in their hands so long as the sanitation of the city remains unreformed. Yellow fever is a fearfully fatal disease to people of our race. It gained a foothold in Memphis in 1878, and of the whites who were unable to escape from the city, no less than 70 per cent died. Of 55 physicians who came from other places to help, 54 were attacked, and 33 died. Colonel Waring himself furnished the supreme proof of the correctness of his conclusions, for he died of the fever on the fourth day after his return to this country.