

owls is an enemy to the common welfare. Let him be spotted and reprov'd as such, even though the poultry yard have to spare a downy chick now and then by way of desert for the feathered protectors of the field-crop.

OUR FAVORED MOUNTAIN HOME.

What is claimed to be the first case of sunstroke ever recorded in San Francisco occurred in that city on Saturday, May 11. The victim was a laborer employed on one of the streets. After the noon hour the sun poured his blazing rays straight down into the narrow avenue where the unfortunate man was working, the steaming asphalt adding to the heat. Soon he staggered over against one of the buildings, unable to speak. The physicians called agreed that he was suffering from sunstroke, and they all expressed themselves firm in the belief that it was the first authenticated case in the history of the city. Other laborers were also so much affected by the heat that they had to leave work and seek a shady place for rest. A striking contrast to the temperature on the Pacific coast is the exceptionally low thermometer reported from eastern Ohio, western Pennsylvania and western Virginia, where, in exposed places, ice formed during the night preceding May 13, a quarter of an inch thick. From Wisconsin, Minnesota, Michigan and other states also come reports of blizzards, and damage by frost to fruit and vegetables.

In reading these reports from the East and West, the people whose happy lot has been cast in these mountain regions feel doubly appreciative of the beautiful spring they are now enjoying. Surrounded by the eternal hills that shield them from the scorching winds on the one side and the chilling blasts on the other, they may well feel that Providence has been kind to them. The temperature during the day is just what is needed to draw from the fields an abundance of wealth to reward the industrious toiler, while the evenings and nights are pleasantly cool. It is an observation frequently made that even when the elements display their fury on the other side of the mountains, in this region nature generally remains calm, inspiring confidence and inspiring feelings of hope and peace. Surely the mountain valleys are highly favored in many respects.

PRACTICAL JOKING DANGEROUS.

The incident reported in a telegram from Oklahoma, in which two young men thought to play a practical joke on a man by holding him up and scaring him, and in which the intended victim acted in an unexpected manner by shooting one of the jokers, ought to be a warning to a number of boys and young men in the southwestern part of town. These young fellows have been engaged almost nightly for some time past in pranks to frighten people, and in a number of cases just after dark have scared women and children almost out of their

wits. They fix up rag or straw men and snails, and suddenly lower them from the limb of a tree or drag them across the sidewalk in front of a pedestrian, who is startled by the uncanny object unexpectedly encountered; or the boys will stand behind trees and as passers-by come along, cause alarm by walking quickly toward the gentleman or lady, as the case may be, turning sharply away when within three or four feet. These proceedings naturally cause the surprised party to start or jump, and if it be a lady to scream and flee—a performance which the jokers seem to enjoy greatly. But as the Oklahoma incident and many similar occurrences suggest, it is just possible that the joke may be taken too earnestly one of these occasions, and serious trouble result.

It would be most regrettable if some hasty man who might have a weapon should, upon being startled by any of these boyish pranks, commence to shoot; it would be no laughing matter for the boys, and might result in occasion for the deepest grief. Those who participate in such a species of joking run a serious risk, from the fact that many persons go armed after nightfall, and there is always danger of meeting one who, when under the impression that an assault is being made, will use his weapon as quickly as did the Oklahoma medicine vendor on Monday night. But even if no harm comes to the jokers, the injury they inflict on people whom they frighten is worth serious consideration. Nervous women and children have been deprived of sleep the whole night, and have been made quite ill in several instances already by these acts; and in case of organic heart trouble it is not difficult to see how death is likely to ensue from a sudden fright of this character. Parents ought to teach their sons to avoid such methods of amusement, which, while bordering upon criminality in many respects in the personal injury they inflict, are especially cowardly and reprehensible where timid women and children are the victims; and the boys themselves should learn more appropriate ways of seeking pleasure, if it were only because of the imminent danger of their play ending in a tragedy. Practical joking of the character referred to is both foolish and wicked.

STREET EDUCATION.

The street education of children is a subject which has undergone much discussion, and from various points of view. The one given most attention to is that which deals with the running of children in the streets at all hours of the day and far into the night, there to be trained in the reckless disregard of restraint which later leads them to become heedless of law and order, and which drills them in the ways of vicious thought and action to the exclusion of the valued branches of learning and conduct.

Of late, Chicagoans have been considering the subject in still another aspect, and the result may bring about a measure of reform in municipal control of the appearance of the city's streets. The matter was brought up by the request

of Mayor Swift on the board of education, to recommend a man suitable for the position of chief of police. This led to a discussion of the part the municipality took in school affairs, and the interest the educational department had in general municipal operations. Upon these topics it has been pointed out that the city pays its millions each year to support a system of public schools; that no taxes are more willingly paid than those which go to the support of that system; that in the schools the pupils are carefully taught in the observance of governmental laws, and that moral and intellectual training are earnestly sought after. At the same time it was pointed out that the municipality was engaged in a system of education outside of the schools that was counteracting to a large extent the work of the pedagogues, and because the school training is chiefly theory the illustration of the practical in the other system had the greater effect. This outside education was described in the object lessons afforded on the public streets; shop windows and show windows of every sort form part of it; the posters, bill boards, and all manner of advertising devices are an important portion; the rickety buildings, uncleared streets, and rubbish and ash heaps, all in violation of sanitary regulations, go to complete the make-up. These, it was pointed out, all operate to educate the people in the line of their appearance, and if that is contrary to the school instruction, the latter of course goes to the wall, and thus much of the citizens' money is wasted.

In such a discussion there is of course much difference of opinion as to the precise extent of responsibility which rests on the municipality. Naturally there are many ideas as to just what class of bills and posters should be allowed on boards and in windows, and where the line of suggestiveness for immorality should be drawn; the same is true with respect to exhibitions in show windows, or displays upon the streets. Upon one point, however, there is a general consensus of opinion, and that is that municipal officers should enforce existing ordinances according to the letter and spirit. The sanitary rules should be applied to teach compliance with sanitary regulations; and so on through the entire list. In this respect the application of the rule could be made to advantage in many other places than Chicago, where there could be also applied with equal force the suggestion that a municipal policy of public education that builds up with one hand and pulls down with the other is a policy of folly rather than of civic wisdom. The street and vacant lot education of the young is an important factor in determining the life and conduct of succeeding generations.

The Stewart Mill in Carr's Fork, Bingham canyon, was burned to the ground Tuesday, entailing a loss of \$30,000. All adjoining buildings on the premises were also destroyed by the blaze, the origin of which is unknown. The mill had been closed for three days and was undergoing repairs when the fire broke out. Insurance was carried amounting to \$10,000.