

ments for the cure of incurable maladies by other means. Priestnitz, the German peasant, led, as was Ling, by personal suffering and failure of cure by the practice of the way, discovered the wonderful influence of water variously applied for the cure of certain morbid derangements. And still there is not a college faculty or examining board in the United States that is qualified to examine an applicant in regard to the Swedish movement or the water cure.

I speak of these things not to detract from our many excellent medical colleges, but simply to show how infantile and narrow are the minds of some of our would-be medical legal advisers. When I see Florence Nightingale leading all the well-trained military surgeons of Europe in camp hygiene; and John Howard the grocery boy teaching sanitary reform and good hospital management to the medical world, I am compelled to recognize the possibility of great discoveries, good suggestions and eminent skill outside the ranks of medical men in high places. When I remember Harvey's demonstration of the circulation of the blood and Jenner's advocacy of vaccination, I say, put away legal barriers to human progress, and the advance of medicine. There are as yet no fixed standards in medicine with which state legislation may enforce conformity.

I could cover many columns here with acknowledgements from eminent medical writers, ancient and modern, showing the want of substantial progress, and the sad state of uncertainty in our generally accepted therapeutics. Anatomy is the only branch taught in medical schools about which medical teachers do not differ more or less. Look into the medical journals late from the press, if you please, and see the variations and contradictions as to the cause of disease and means of relief! Then think of a candidate for a license to practice presenting himself to a board for examination upon technicalities and absurdities that the members of the board themselves are constantly disputing about.

I yield to no one in appreciation of the highest medical education, but I most earnestly object to the assumption that there is only one narrow path for the student to travel and one set of opinions for him to adopt in order to fit himself for every-day practice. In the face of these facts, I say, let us have no arbitrary laws that will obstruct freedom and intellectual liberty in furthering and perfecting the science of medicine.

WM. MCCOY.

SALT LAKE CITY.

### WEST VIRGINIA CONFERENCE.

On Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 2d and 3d, the West Virginia conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints convened at the Guthrie church, a large and commodious edifice owned by members of the Adventist persuasion, and located about four miles north from Charleston, West Va.

There were present of the Elders J. G. Kimball, president of the Southern States mission, D. E. Layton, president of the West Va. conference, and W. A. Cullimore, Enoch Brown, L. M. Crauer, W. A. Head, J. T. Little, J. E. Bunting, A. N.

Holdaway, J. U. Jolley, Erastus Beck, G. S. Barker and C. D. Evans, traveling Elders in the Conference.

Council meetings were held Saturday noon, Sunday morning and Monday morning and afternoon. Reports were rendered and much general instruction imparted by President Kimball. The reports show forty baptisms since last report, thirty-seven persons having been baptized since April of the present year.

On Saturday morning Elder Kimball spoke of the political, religious and social condition of the people of Utah. Elder Erastus Beck referred to the duties of the Saints, and Elder D. E. Layton followed with an interesting discourse on the kingdom of God.

In the afternoon Elder Wm. J. Cullimore spoke on the first principles of the Gospel. He was followed by S. M. Cranney on the fulfillment of the prophecy of Daniel stating that God was to set up His kingdom in the last days. Elder Jas. E. Bunting then bore a faithful testimony to the truth of the Gospel and expressed his determination to use his every endeavor to impart this knowledge to his fellow men.

On Sunday morning the congregation numbered about 125. After the opening exercises Elder Kimball occupied the time and delivered an interesting and instructive discourse on the plan of salvation.

In the afternoon Elder Barker addressed the meeting on the atonement and was followed by Elder A. W. Holdaway on the personality of God. Elder W. A. Head referred to his labors in the missionary field and spoke in glowing terms of the hospitality of the people and their readiness to the Elders. He closed by bearing a strong testimony to the work of God. In a few well chosen words Elder Kimball thanked the people in behalf of the Elders for the kindness extended on that and all previous occasions, and invoked the blessings of God upon all present. Many strong testimonies were borne by the Elders and all felt well in their labors.

The conference is in a prosperous condition. On Monday, Sept. 4th, seven persons living in the vicinity of where conference was held came forward and received baptism under the direction of Elders Kimball and Layton.

G. S. BARKER, Clerk.

### DEATH OF MERCY R. TOMPSON.

At 10:45 o'clock last night Sister Mercy R. Thompson, aunt of President Joseph F. Smith, breathed her last at her home in this city, at the ripe age of eighty-six years and three months. The time of the funeral has not yet been arranged, as the arrival of President Smith, who is now in the East, but has been telegraphed for, is awaited.

Sister Thompson was widely known and highly esteemed among the Latter-day Saints, with whom she has been associated for more than half a century. She was at the time of her demise one of the oldest members of the Church, in connection with which her life has been one of faith and noble sacrifice. She was a sister to the mother of President Joseph F. Smith. Her husband, who was private secretary to the Prophet Joseph, died August 27th, 1841.

About two years after this she became the wife of the Patriarch Hyrum Smith. She was one of the first settlers of the Sixteenth ward of this city. She has been an invalid for a number of years past.

## RELIGIOUS.

### Sunday Services.

At the Tabernacle services yesterday, Sunday, Sept. 17, after the usual preliminary exercises,

ELDER GEORGE M. CANNON

was the first speaker. He expressed a desire to be guided by the Spirit of God while addressing the congregation. The Saints, he said, must so live that they always have the Spirit with them. He then observed that the growth of the Church since her first organization has not been very rapid, but there are remarkable circumstances connected with it. In we consider the persecutions through which the people has passed. It has been customary with the world to persecute those who differ from the majority in religious matters. Even the Protestants had been guilty of persecution. At present the age seems to be advanced in this respect and today we read that the various religions in the world can meet together in friendly congress as in the case in Chicago. Even the Saints are beginning to be better understood by the world, and people who formerly persecuted us are inclined to accord us fairer treatment.

Sometimes it seems to us as if the Lord were delaying His coming, but He is continually working out His plan for the salvation of mankind. His ways are above the ways of man. The speaker read a portion of the sixteenth chapter of 1 Samuel as showing the difference between God's ways and those of man. The question was to elect a king for Israel, and God appointed one whom no man thought of elevating to that position—David, the shepherd boy. No one used to fear for the cause of the Lord, but even should see that he, himself, is doing what is acceptable to the Almighty. The speaker closed by bearing a testimony to the truth of the Gospel and the exaltation in the Church of all the gifts and graces which have been promised to those who have faith and obey.

ELDER SEYMOUR B. YOUNG

then addressed the congregation. He said he realized that our number is comparatively small and that our popularity is not great. Yet we have a position among the peoples of the earth, and the Lord has indeed established a marvelous work, as He promised to do, when He said a time would come when peace should be established and all nations be taught by the Lord. It is pleasing to listen to the testimony given that the Gospel is true. This Church has had and has now representatives at the religious congress. Our choir of which we are justly proud has just returned from Chicago, and there was wisdom in their visiting that city at this time. They acquitted themselves with much credit and bore a great testimony to the world of the ability to be found here. Papers will be read at the religious congress, stating our views and hopes for the future, and we