

decreasing with the latitude and increasing with the distance from the sea. He says the belief seems warranted that the temperature danger us to mankind is that in excess of the temperature of the human blood, and that when the air temperature rises for a considerable number of hours above 98 degrees F. the fatal effects of the great heat necessarily follow.

During the hot wave from the 4th to the 14th of August, 1896, no less than 1,000 deaths caused by heat, directly or indirectly, were reported in the United States. At Chicago the ordinary death roll was greatly increased by the heat, there being 125 deaths reported in one day. Of direct fatalities, the following are the most important: In New York there were 231 deaths; in Chicago, 91; in Philadelphia, 30; in Baltimore, 25; in Owensboro, Ky., 16; and in Washington, 14. In St. Louis, of 200 prostrations, 40 were immediately fatal.

This hot wave, it is pointed out, was unprecedentedly fatal, but every year shows a notable increase in the death rate in certain localities as a result of heat. Among the most remarkable in recent years are, according to Gen. Greely, the following:

July, 1876, the heat caused an increase in the death rate of many of the largest cities to the then highest reported percentage.

July, 1878, the direct fatalities from heat were very numerous, there being 163 deaths in St. Louis; in Memphis, 45; in Chicago, 30; and in Milwaukee 12.

The Ohio valley suffered particularly, the temperature rising for fifteen consecutive days above 86 degrees F., but New England was not entirely exempt, as shown by the death of 6 persons in Boston.

July, 1879, while the Ohio and Missouri valleys experienced some fatalities, yet the peculiar feature was 30 deaths at Charleston, S. C., where the temperature rose to 111 degrees F.

In many respects the most deleterious effects upon the public health through climatic conditions occurred during the months of July and August, 1891. While as usual the most numerous fatalities occurred in the Ohio, lower Missouri and upper Mississippi valleys, yet the Atlantic states suffered excessively. July 13th the Cincinnati health officer reported 549 deaths in the previous week, of which 363 were caused by heat. In St. Louis 31 died from sunstroke, and in the valleys before mentioned 700 deaths were directly due to the intense heat. In August, while the fatalities were perhaps fewer, the heat conditions were more wide-spread, extending from the lower Missouri valley eastward to New England. The weekly mortality report of Chicago of August 8th showed a rate of 52 per 1,000, as against the normal rate of 18.

Observations prove that the area over which very excessive death rates obtain extends from New York city westward through the Ohio and lower Missouri valley. Further south the mean temperature is higher, but the humidity of the air is increasing and the death rate, consequently, lower.

A consideration of this subject suggests to the inhabitants of this mountain region the gratitude they owe to an overruling Providence among other things for the climatic conditions here prevailing. These are barely severe enough to favor the production of a strong, healthy

race. The blasts of the winter are as a rule tempered by brilliant sunshine in the day time, and the summer's heat is rendered tolerable by the vapors from the melting snow in the mountains and from the rivers and lakes. It is a common remark by travelers that the climate here more than equals that of any other region on the American continent. This fact alone is an invaluable boon to Utah, and one that should be remembered when the wonderful achievements of the first Pioneers are contemplated.

A FREE TEXT BOOK DISCUSSION.

There has been considerable difference of opinion over the recent action of the city board of education in deciding that for the present the high school pupils will not be furnished text books free. The basis of this action is that the city school district has not the funds to expend in that direction, the interests of the grade schools requiring the use of all cash available at the present time.

Appropos of this matter is the view taken by the late Illinois legislature on this same subject, wherein the legislative senate committee on education took adverse action on the proposed free text book law in that state, and killed the measure. In discussing the subject, the Chicago Chronicle expressed the view held by a considerable majority of the Illinois legislature, and by the press and public there, with few exceptions, as it so views were given through the newspapers. This was that the free text book bill was a pernicious measure, carrying the community forward in a direction which threatens destruction of individualism and self-respect; that the public school scholar is no more entitled to free school books than he is entitled to free shoes, a free rice to eat from a schoolhouse, free medical attendance when ill; that if an education is worth having it is worth paying for as far as may be necessary to pay for it; that the public had taxed itself generously and overtaxed itself, to maintain free public schools; and to pile upon the expense already incurred that of providing every child who attends these schools free to them in all else with the books and utensils used in the course of a year's education would have been a wrong to the state and to the individual who would be the forced recipient of such charity, and would also be an injustice to the very great number of parents who, contributing according to their abilities to the maintenance of the public school establishment, do not use that establishment at all. To this the Chronicle adds:

There is an attempt on the part of educators to magnify their office at the expense of the people. They wish to load the school system down with all sorts of fads and they think the public will stand the imposition. The public is indeed patient. It is patient even as the camel. But the last straw came and broke the camel's back and as a producer the camel was of no further account. Professional educators should beware of zeal without discretion and extravagance that becomes destructive.

So far as concerns the view that the furnishing of free text books threatens

destruction of individualism and self respect, and is no more appropriate for a public school scholar than are free rides, etc., the NEWS cannot agree with the Illinois idea at all, for the reason that the latter displays excessive pettishness and selfishness. Carrying to its logical conclusion the argument as presented in our Chicago contemporary, it would apply to free schools as well as free text books, and thus characterizes those who take that position as adverse to the public school system if not worse. It may be true that if an education is worth having it is worth paying for as far as may be necessary. And to turn the point on the Illinois people, the education of children is worth having by a state, hence the state pays for it as far as necessary, even to the extent of free books as well as free tuition, when circumstances allow.

There is no more loss of self-respect in accepting free text books than in receiving tuition free from the state school teachers. Hence in this city the grade schools have free tuition and free text books, and this condition should be maintained as long as possible, since it is a material assistance in educating the children. But the high school stands second in order in necessity, for the reason that it does not include all children under a compulsory attendance rule, and the majority of children do not reach there at all. It would be a most desirable thing if free tuition and books could be maintained in the high school; but if a cut somewhere becomes necessary, it is better to do it on the free text books for high school pupils than to let the load fall on the more general institution, the grade schools; and when circumstances permit, the better condition should be resumed.

As to the other point, that of education seeking to magnify themselves at the expense of the people, there is too much display of that inclination, though all educators do not indulge therein. Too often, when retrenchment is called for, the cry of opposing education is raised without reason for justification, and many fads are suffered to prevail from this very cause. But the public and school boards are coming to deal with this matter as it deserves, and to adopt or modify plans with cool judgment and in consideration of all the circumstances, regardless of over-zealous or specious clamor. Yet free text books, or anything that facilitates the children of a state generally receiving a sound practical education, are not a fad or destructive of self-respect or energy in the individual student.

RUSSIA'S DESIGN ON HAWAII.

The remark telegraphed from St. Petersburg, Russia, as appearing in the Novoe Vremya regarding the annexation of Hawaii by the United States, will not occasion surprise to those who have been watching closely the Russian policy on the Pacific. The St. Petersburg paper asserts that Europe has every reason to oppose the strengthening of the United States in the New World, and must be ready to support Spain if she is threatened with the loss of Cuba. Reading between