

wishes to marry it is a matter of mutual agreement between husband and wife, and the intrusion of the State or the Church with their forms and formularies is obnoxious and impertinent. "Light, not Law," "Education, not Legislation," are the mottoes of the philosophical anarchist.

I wonder sometimes how deep an impression our modern science-teaching is making. I find well-informed and intelligent young men and women holding, for example, that the nearer a load is to a team of horses the more easily they will draw it, that a body will float more readily in deep water than in shallow, that the plum crotch will point to subterranean springs, that sunshine puts out a fire, even in a close iron stove, and so forth. In most of these cases certain observations are correct enough, but the interpretations thereof, and subsequent deductions therefrom, are often entirely wrong. For example there is sound reason for hitching a team close to a loaded stone-boat instead of using a long chain; but when such an experience leads a man to try to get as much as possible of his load over the front wheels of a lumber wagon, there is something wrong with his mental machinery.

Even gross superstitions still prevail. The wife of a neighbor, some weeks ago, reported, in perfect sincerity, of how the kiss of a certain old negro was a sure cure for the whooping-cough. The Kentucky mountaineers have a similar remedy for various maladies, namely, a drink out of a stranger's shoe. Perhaps, The O. A. C. Bacteriologist can throw some light on such matters.

The extraordinary sale of patent medicines, and their vendors' methods of advertising are other indications of

how slight an impression on the popular mind modern science has as yet made. Weather prognosticators also obtain fairly wide credence. I remember a few years ago hearing a man remarking on the wonderful accuracy of certain weather predictions. It happened that, during the period covered by his observations, some two or three months, he was living in England, crossing the Atlantic, and living in various parts of Canada. I therefore asked him what part of the earth the predictions in question applied to, remarking incidentally that on the same date the weather in England was not usually the same as the weather in Canada. This question staggered him, and when I spoke somewhat slightly of weather prophets in general he was quite hurt. His case may be unusual, but I question whether many of my readers have thought any more definitely of the nature of Noah's flood, or of any other ancient event whose record comes to us through the mind of primitive man.

In speaking of the inaccuracy and vagueness in thinking which a sound training in the sciences ought to remedy I do not imply that such a training will solve the riddle of the universe. There will always be mysteries, and, as the circle of knowledge enlarges, the bounding and boundless infinite Unknown will seem more awful than ever. The attitude of wonder towards Nature by no means marks the fool, while a dogmatic positiveness, on the contrary, usually indicates shallowness. These considerations, however, in no wise invalidate the practice of re-interpreting all old things in the light of all new things. It is, perhaps, rather illogical to speak of "old things" and "new things," because all things are both new and old. The practice I re