



PSYCHOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT.



Superstitions.

From the LABOR ADVOCATE.

"ON Queen Street the other day, a boy who stood in the center of the side walk caused two young ladies proceeding city wards to separate. They would have passed him, one on either side; in fact they had already done so when one of them stopped short, turned, and walking around the boy, rejoined her companion. I could not understand her action until I remembered that there is a superstition to the effect that if you allow anyone or anything to come between you and the person you are walking with, some dire consequences will follow. Just what they are I don't recollect, but they are similar to those resulting from going under a ladder, coming back for something you have forgotten, putting an umbrella or parasol over your head in the house, and many other similar absurd things. You say hardly anyone believes in these things now-a-days, but if you will just think a minute or two, you will remember the little superstitions which you have a sort of a sneaking belief in, and which many of your friends share. If not one thing it is another that we do not care to do because "its unluck," and on account of some strange coincidence we have heard or know of, we foolishly are influenced by them. This is both wrong and hurtful, and we should endeavor to get over follies of this kind. How can any act of that kind cause good or evil fortune? There can be no possible connection between the two, and the sooner we get rid of all such foolish notions the sooner we will attain to that confidence in our power to shape our own destiny which is our birthright."

In the above article there are a few suggestions bearing upon psychology which are worthy of notice. The first suggestion is the fact, that people in every station in life, are more or less influenced by some pet superstition, which in some way