

THE HERMETIST.

GET UNDERSTANDING.

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THE HERMETIST,

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MRS. M. M. PHELON, C.S.B. } EDITORS.

SALUTATORY.

With our compliments, we present THE HERMETIST to our many friends. We do not publish it to fill a long felt want, nor to satisfy the aching of a mighty void. We leave that for the prodigies of intellect, who are fitted for just such work. As for us and our house, we believe we have something to say that will be of interest to the people. Therefore we are going to say it, to the best of our ability.

We have no career to outline, no promises to make and break. If any of our friends desire to "pool their issues" with us to the amount of a dollar or two for the "good of the cause," we will put their names on our subscription books, until we shall have cleared a little standing place in the thicket of Time. If you wish us well, let your word and thought, at least, help us. If you are indifferent, please suspend judgment until further notice. We seek knowledge and guidance from the Viewless but Real.

KNOW THYSELF.

It was, and still is, the most important injunction to man, from the lips of profound wisdom, to "know thyself." This has been so accepted in all historic time. It is the universal cry of the literateurs, scientists and savants of to-day. They echo and re-echo the truism that "the proper study of mankind is man." When, however, we seek direction and guidance, they tell

appeals only to the personal sense. We must, say they, understand of what elements, muscle, sinew, tendon, blood, viscera and bone are built. We must contemplate their size, color, weight, and action, singly and as a whole. We must distinguish the material of the liver, from that of the lungs, heart or other muscles. We are to carry our analysis, by the use of the microscope, down to the ultimate atoms. When this has all been done, can the wisest of them all tell us a single certain word regarding the origin of life? Can they give us axiomatic basis from which to deduce the reason, why the molecular forces, within the ultimate atom, moves on to the formation of a sequence from which life and growth result? Not a bit of it.

The protoplasmic theories, as the plasters which cover up the lack of the true knowledge of ourselves. Delving in the mines of the physical, does not bring us one inch on our way toward the true and the real.

The whole physical condition is but a bundle of the Hindoo *Maya* or illusion. To-day it is, to-morrow it is not. Can there be anything more unsubstantial, more unreal than man's physical body, which is constantly changing, every single moment as it presses forward from infancy to old age, undergoing the while, all the varying incidents of human life?

We say life is bound under the law. What law? The law of Infinite Creative thought. To the carrying out of that law, man's real self is appointed. When we say we are acquainted with a person, we do not mean that we have the honor of being familiar with his clothing, nor do we deem his dress of any importance in our estimate of his regard for us; neither are we acquainted with a man, because we know the fashion of his garments for years. It gives us no clue to the appearance of the body it covers, by its outward seeming.

This is eminently true with the physical man. If we do not know the soul and spirit we have failed to comprehend the Real.

How few of us have ever stood face to face with our own souls, or even the astral reflection.

ourselves. The glimpses that have come to us, are as one sees his face in a mirror, and then straightway forgetteth what manner of a man he is.

It is this potent, all pervading principle we must seek for, when we strive to know ourselves. This is the esoteric meaning of the teaching of the ancient philosophers, when above all things else they urged upon their students the brief command: "Know thyself."

It is the Real we are to seek to comprehend, the power behind the physical throne. That is controlled by, and can, in turn, control the invisible and wonderful forces of the Universe, when the laws are learned. By their study we shall come to the knowledge of the Highest Wisdom possible to the human creature, "Know thyself."

FRAGMENTS FROM ARNOLD'S LIGHT OF ASIA.

"My sister! thou hast found," the Master said,

"Searching for what none finds—that bitter balm

I had to give thee. He thou lovedst slept Dead on thy bosom yesterday; to-day Thou know'st the whole wide world weeps with thy woe:

The grief which all hearts share grows less for one.

So! I would pour my blood if it could stay Thy tears and win the secret of that curse Which makes sweet love our anguish, and which drives

O'er flowers and pastures to the sacrifice— As these dumb beasts are driven—men their lords.

I seek that secret; bury thou thy child!"

THINGS TO REMEMBER.

"You and your fortunes are no more the things of chance than is the tree from its earliest growth. You are the product of the elements, and that product through the working of a law. You can as you find out the law, make of yourself whatever you please."—*White Cross Library.*

"Having obtained the use of the inner senses, having conquered the desires of the outer senses, having conquered the desires of the individual soul, and having obtained knowledge, prepare now, Oh disciple! to enter upon the way in reality. The path is found, make yourself ready to tread it."—*Light on the Path.*

"There is a law of involution, and there must be some point where forces meet and balance, or find equilibrium. Humanity ascends and

unfolds into spirit; spirit descends and finds embodiment in humanity. Thoughts of this kind do not degrade nor belittle God, they merely exalt and ennoble man."—*Solar Biology.*

"Question your own soul. Read the promises, and doubt no more. We trust our lives with our cook, our coachman, with the drug doctor with the engineer. But we cannot bring ourselves to trust the promises of the Infinite God, to heal without drugs, when we know all healing is from Him."—*Physics and Metaphysics.*

"Don't think that sorrow, anxiety or even injustice can crush you or rob you of one atom of that strength and peace which is yours by divine right; for that admission of power puts the weight in the wrong balance, and deprives of the consciousness of ultimate victory which should be yours, because the Lord of Hosts is your leader in battle."—*What is Mental Medicine.*

"There is no work you cannot do, beginning in Truth. Truth is a Silent Principle, pregnant with power. You speak it into an action that puts old conditions out of sight. You speak the still forces into action, into life movements. All changes for better, date back to the time when Truth, spoken by some conscious mind—either your own or another's—sets your unconscious mind to work a-right. Persistent insistence of any truth by mortal, conscious mind, will set into harmony with Truth."—*Emma Hopkins' Fifth Lesson.*

"Though a land of dusky forms, Egypt stands as a white flower among other races of the earth, and the hieroglyph readers of the old hieratic writings, the professors and the thinkers of the day will be unable to stain the petals of that grand lily-blossom of our planet. They do but see the stem of the lily, and the sunlight shining down through the petals. They can see nothing of the real blossom, neither can they disfigure it by modern gardening, because it is out of their reach. It grows above the stature of man, and its bulb drinks deep from the river of life."—*Idyll of the White Lotus.*

"Wise men holding Wisdom highest, scorn delights more false than fair;

Daily live as if Death's fingers twined already in thy hair.

Truly richer than all riches, better than the best of gain,

Wisdom is; unought, secure—once won, none loseth her again.

Bringing dark things into day-light, solving doubts that vex the mind,

Like an open eye is Wisdom—he that hath her not is blind.

—*Swedenborg the Buddhist.*

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