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# THE HERMETIST.

GET UNDERSTANDING.

VOLUME V.

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## THE HERMETIST,

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BY

## THE HERMETIC BROTHERHOOD,

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NANCY McKAY GORDON. }

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### HERMETIC BROTHERHOOD of A. L. and E.

Montevey Sunday evening. Time, 8:30 o'clock. Place, 4006 Grand Boulevard. All inquiries after Occult and Mystic thought on the highest spiritual planes, seeking Truth for the Truth's sake, are cordially invited. W. P. Phelon, M. D., First Elder Brother; Nancy McKay Gordon, Second Elder Brother; Miss M. E. Applegate, Scribe, 4006 Grand Boulevard, Chicago, Ill.

**X** When this paragraph is marked with a blue cross it shows our friends that their time has expired, and we shall be happy to receive a renewal of their subscription soon.

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Another year has gone to blend  
With the mysteries of Eternity  
Gone from our grasp for Aye! and Aye!  
Shrouded in the mists that be  
We cannot even see the mists  
That round our spirit now exist,  
God gives us sight that we may see  
And fathom his great mystery.

The hours roll by, then days and years  
So silently, so sure, and fast,  
Almost unheeded, softly they slide  
Into the lifeless past,  
We pause and stare then in the face  
These days and years that no space  
We're awed and spell-bound to see  
The greatness of God's mystery.

Now, let us take our souls to task  
On this bright New Year's day,  
Have we fulfilled our mission well  
What does our conscience say,  
Have all been bettered, who have met us  
Or are they trying to forget us,  
Have we been faithful, God to Thee  
Why, then are we clothed in mystery?

Our souls are in the grave they say  
And our bodies are the graves,  
Then, let us hold for our release  
For life and strength that saves,  
Who knows but in the coming year  
Our resurrection may make clear  
And rend the dark intensity,  
That makes ourselves a mystery.

Then let's rid ourselves with pure thoughts  
That we may speak kind words,  
Our actions will be pure and true  
Our sight be keen as swords,  
Oh! Holy Father, Love, The Truth  
From error hold our souls aloof  
Purge and purify our minds,  
With flames of love for all mankind.

And when the time comes to renew  
The years forever past,  
May they be blessed to a stair  
Each higher than the last,  
Until we reach a brighter light  
Where we shall be our brother's gain,  
And we'll live nearer God, to Thee  
And we'll live nearer God, to Thee

## TEMPLE TALKS.

Vol. 7.

Nos. 5 and 6

"I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE!"

"I am the resurrection and the life." We all know who said that, and where He said it. It was upon the great steps of the portico of the temple; in the hearing of those who had stood by Him in all the latter part of His career; who had supposed that He was to be a temporal king, by whom the Jewish nation was to be rebuilt, re-inspired and thus become masters of the whole world. These, His devoted allies supposed then and there, He would have proclaimed Himself king of the Jews, and the supreme power of the nation rested in His hands, for they looked upon Him as the Messiah that was to come. But instead of proclaiming the new kingdom, He said: "I am the resurrection and the life." The truth He thus uttered has been in existence ever since man was created.

Often and often I have heard those who came about the casket of friends they were laying away in the earth, seeking to console those apparently left desolate, as far as their departed friends were concerned (quote this sentence): "At the breath of the sweet springtime, or of the summer flowers stole in through the windows, with the audience quieted down to listen to the last, sad and tender words spoken; he who was attempting to comfort his comrades would give for his text: "I am the resurrection and the life." Then he would go on with what he had to say and tell us something entirely different. The theme would be, because he was the resurrection and the life, then through him, all others would receive resurrection and life.

But it seems to me, if the statement had been made for Himself, as the representative of all men everywhere, then every single individual of mankind should have been able to repeat both the sentiment and statement for himself and herself, as an absolute truth, resting on the fact, that we are all one with the Infinite One, and that the resurrection to be, in the time to come, when man should have attained his majority, would be simply that and nothing more: "I am the resurrection and the life." If man had never forgotten, if he had never thought differently from the way the truth had come to his mind and to his understanding and to his position upon the earth, it would have appealed to him long before this, that he held within himself the resurrection. The only

resurrection that can come to man is by his own exertion and progression, but he must lead to the place where the resurrection consists of a body born of eternally living atoms, spiritual as the spirit itself. No man, no woman would care to carry about with them that which Paul designated as the body of this death. So long as the body exists, is born, lives and dies within a certain specified time, so long it is of no consequence, as far as immortality is concerned or expected. But let man change his body, and out of the fulness of the eternal supply, build for himself such a body as he can build. For I hold this to be true; if man can, by the exercise of his will power, through his thought, change one single atom of the whole body from the dead, dying, mortal condition to a live, active, vigorous state, he can change the whole.

When Jesus, the Christ, the man, the woman, the type of all mankind that have ever lived or ever will live, had attained by His power, His self-discipline and knowledge, to at-one-ment with the Father. When He declared: "I and the Father are one," He meant every single vibration of the words He used. When He declares for Himself: "I am the resurrection and the life," He utters a great truth for all men everywhere, and expresses that which every man will be able to speak somewhere along the lines of his lives and his unfolding. It is not necessary that we shall put God afar off. It is not in any way essential that we shall separate ourselves from God. It is not in any way needed for any purpose whatever, that we shall say the Jesus, the Christ, was a God-man, He was God. Jesus, the Christ, was either a man like ourselves or He is no sample for us. If He was not a man then we cannot imitate Him, for we cannot imitate those who are more than men. We can imitate men who are greater, grander and larger than ourselves, but we cannot imitate God, in the sense that we do exactly the things that God does, under the usual explanation of these terms. And if Jesus, the Christ, had become a perfect man, then was He that which we cannot become, and which we are on the way to become in the ages of the future. Some day, somewhere, if we are not ready in this incarnation to begin our work, there will come to us the hour and the moment, when like an inspiration from the infinite, everlasting throne of the Divine, the word will impel us to use our own power and strength to begin to change ourselves, and we shall not see death any more. I believe that all Christendom, believing in the

direction of the body, as they declare, believing in Jesus, the Christ, believing in all the truths he taught, should have so failed to comprehend the simplest part of the statement. The simplest part of the statement is, that we are of the great body of mankind; that Jesus was also of the great body of mankind, and that He had become a perfect man, and because He was able to be perfected, as he did, so can we all, and the sooner we begin, the better it will be for us. We can begin now, to-night, and perhaps some of us might never see death any more. I believe that to be possible. And those who are talking along the advanced lines of the broad thought, of their being able to travel on without passing through any more changes, have seized hold of the great truth from out the knowledge of the One who is all.

But let us consider two or three things about the statement. Then there is another statement I want to put in, right along with this before we go any further. Jesus says in some of His instruction to His disciples: "I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." It is the same "I" that "am the resurrection and the life." Put these two together and see how they fit with the facts in the case. If He is with us always, then He is with us now. The last we heard of Jesus was that He was a man in possession of a resurrected body, a spiritual body, and that a cloud received Him out of the sight of His disciples. When did He go? What did He do with His body? There is no record whatever, in any writing, Scripture or otherwise, that the body disappeared, as bodies generally do. The supposition is then that He had seized upon His body by the divine right and held it as a spiritual body. And if that is so, He is still upon the earth somewhere. Where, I do not pretend to say.

I have no reason however, but that the stories coming to us from various sources of holy men being in certain places on the earth; of men who are called mahatmas or by any name you choose; men who are said to be of an extraordinary age, and to whom are ascribed the characteristics of Jesus, might some of them be Jesus? Over and over again we are led to believe by the plain wording of the Scriptures, that it was the fabrication of some of Jesus' followers to hold their bodies even as the sun and field did. Therefore I do not doubt the resurrection of men, body men, as we call them, as body men, because their bodies have come out and mixed with them to the earth, and will be seen by the world.

years since Jesus lived, walked and talked upon the earth, and man has just begun to wake up to the truths which He taught. Two thousand years is not very long for a man to live, when we remember what the Scripture says of the ancient men. You read in the first part of the Bible of the men who were 800 and 1,000 years old, more or less. If they could live 800 years, or 1,000 years, they could live 2,000 just as well, because the law that enables them to live for the one period of time would enable them to live another if properly applied. And when Jesus says: "I am the resurrection and the life," He makes two statements in one. The resurrection must be first condition of the body, which spiritualized, renders the body a fit temple for the spirit to dwell in. And when He says, "the life," He must mean His spiritual condition. Then the two united would be exactly what He proposed to tell us of, that is, of a perfected body which He carried somewhere with Him. Now, where? Where?

And if it be possible for you, under any circumstances to get any trace or idea of where Jesus may be today, the key of Paradise will be in your hands. Of course, there are a great many things said by those who have written on these things, about His being ascended into heaven and sitting on the right hand of GOD, the Father. At the present time, we understand that "GOD, the Father," is the principle of all life. If He were to take His body into the invisible spiritual, then wherever he was, would be on the right hand of GOD, the Father, because he would be receiving the power divine by which the atoms which constituted his body had become spiritualized, and were able to receive and entertain, and to hold for all the years and for all the ages that which had been committed to their charge, and that was the spirit, Jesus. So when He, a man, makes the statement that I have given you, He speaks to us, men like himself, men of like powers in all ways, and in all conditions, whatever, Jesus did we can do. And He came to us as other men have come during all the ages, to show us what it is possible for us, common humanity to attain. The trouble with us, on all occasions and under all circumstances is, that in reading the scriptures we put them so far away from us that they do not appeal to us, or else they are so far off in time, that we think that the times must be very different. But I tell you the times in the application of the everlasting, eternally acting law, are all the same, the law.

of God, which in the Divine Ideation He first conceived and thought of, by which the universe sprang into being, is the same to-day in every jot and tittle as it was when it was first pronounced upon the vibrating ether of space.

Whatever is true of the present is true of the past, and we shall never come to any full understanding of that which belongs to us as sons and heirs of the Father's kingdom, unless we bring to our understanding that we are not worshipping a God afar off. And the more closely we believe, the more closely we feel that "I and the Father are one," the more fully shall we enter into the truth, the more fully shall we dominate over all the conditions of our environment, for into man's hands was given dominion over everything upon the earth, and it was given to him because he was part of the ONE, and by the power emanating from the Father, from God Itself, he is capable of controlling. He not only can but he may. It is his privilege, and the sooner we wake up to that knowledge and understanding, the more fully shall we stand out in all the fulness of power; in all the fulness of strength; and claiming our divine birthright become masters of all that is about us, under the earth, upon the earth, and in the heavens above the earth. And the more fully we can comprehend and understand, each and every one of us, that "I am the resurrection and the life." The only resurrection and the only life there is or will be the more surely we shall have found God, we shall have found ourselves. Then we shall have found our bodies, and in the oneness of existence shall move forward to the accomplishment of time.

#### ONE OF THE MAGI.

\* \* \* \* \*

Eternal Goodness within the mystery; immortal beauty everywhere; I will try to dream of these the more reverently and tenderly, since they have touched my soul in a life so beautiful and true.

Come, sacred memories! come fond hopes! come, heavenly inspirations of goodness we have known, and still know! teach us to trust, as little children, in the goodness we cannot see, teach us to subordinate more and more the heart pangs to the heart exultations; the ineffaceable grief to the eternal joy. In more subtle ways than we have ever known, still let the sunshine stream in; still let us feel that around us, all is beauty; that above us, all is blue.

#### FULL MOON REPORT FOR FEBRUARY.

FULL MOON MEETING, Feb. 6, 1898.  
4006 Grand Blvd., Chicago, Ill.

WE convened at the usual time, and meditated upon the subject of "The ONE." Repetition of the mantram followed.

The Elder Brother's text was: "I am the resurrection and the life." The theme was encouraging and uplifting in its expression of the possibility of attainment of unity with the ONE, as did Jesus: "I am the resurrection and the life."

After the reading of the Scribe's report the members present gave their testimony for the month. The general expression was a hearty appreciation for the instruction couched, and the helpfulness of the inner conditions and unfolding in everyday life. We have had meetings that were perhaps more inspirational, possibly more interesting, but seldom if ever, one that was more forceful.

Knots Nos. 31, 49 and 51 were represented. Several visitors were present and the attendance was up to the average. In this connection we will call to the attention of our friends, a change for Knot No. 31, which now meets at 463, 4th Street, every Friday evening. Visitors welcomed.

The matter of the entertainment of delegates at the coming Convocation, March 27th, was informally brought before the meeting and favorably considered, further details to be taken up later.

The usual announcements followed, also notice of the course of lectures this month of Symbolism, under the auspices of the "School of Hermetic Philosophy," conducted by the Elder Brother.

The session then closed with the Greetings, etc.

The close of the ancient year is near. The point of the stirring and awakening of the life forces throughout all Nature. And we hope that the coming anniversary will be as brilliant as in former years.

The period is full of activities. We note the formation of Knot No. 52 at Troy, New York which starts well omened by the number; There are also indications of two or three other Knots shortly to be formed.

The registered membership of the "School of Hermetic Philosophy" has commenced, and we can seek from it new strength and power in all that concerns the work. Our members are calling that every step of added means to strengthening the Brotherhood has been questioned and still moves on, will understand the

The School is an entity, and may be spoken of without diffidence. As the outer court of the ancient Temple, so the School of Hermetic Philosophy is for the use and aid of both members and non-members, and will be of worth to all who are seeking the truth.

The meetings and lectures at Headquarters are increasing in interest. We have had the addition of some new material this winter which promises the most satisfactory results.

It is very gratifying to the Headquarters staff to have had the dues as a rule, so promptly paid. There are certain maturing obligations in the publishing department that are put off until now, that the dues may meet them. We feel that we will be forgiven in asking those who have necessarily delayed, to remember that this matter is a great help, and we thankfully appreciate all the helpfulness coming to us from any quarter, especially in this year, following so closely upon the hard times, and the close of the cycle of depression.

We have a book ready for press which will fill a long felt want. "Healing, Causes and Effects," by W. P. Phelon.

We hope to see all of the members as can be, present at the Convocation.

Probably the most interesting of all the items this month is a letter from Brother Alexander, written from Stockholm, Sweden, on January 15. He did not wait until he had reached his journey's end to commence his work of healing the sick in mind and body, but commenced on shipboard with an insane patient, and during the brief time since his arrival, has effected cures in several cases that had been pronounced incurable. He also finds many who hunger for the truth he has to give them.

Bro. Harris, of Chelmsford, Mass., reports for Knot No. 48 a very harmonious meeting on January 9th, following the usual programme, and that the paper by the E. B. on "Worship" was very interesting.

Bro. Hennemann, of Pensacola, Fla., reports progress.

Bro. McConnelly, Saginaw, E. S., writes: "This last month has been one of great promise. Have been in better health than I have for eleven years."

Bro. Slater, Scribe of Knot No. 46, San Diego, Cal., says, "Those present at the last F. M. received words of encouragement, and that they were all pleased with the future outlook."

Lack of space prevents our giving the report of the San Francisco work in detail. Suffice to

say that it is in a flourishing condition. They have many earnest workers in their midst, and know how to utilize all their talent.

M. E. APPLGATE, Scribe.

\* \* \* \* \*

### MIRACLES.

THE sun rises in the morning and sets at night, the stars sparkle in the firmament, the Briar rose sheds its fragrance through the forest, the lark sings in the air and the thrush upon the tree tops; yet there are people who go about all day with their eyes fixed upon the ground, not knowing that there is beauty in the Universe, and love in its plan.

"There are laws!" they cry, "and if you do not obey them you must suffer. Miracles never happen, the laws are too powerful for that. If I do not earn my dinner I go without, if I tear a hole in my coat I am, in rags! These are realities!"

Realities seem like very somber things when thus presented, and one wonders how the apple blossoms can dare flaunt their prosperity before us in the Spring, not having dinners to earn, nor coats to tear! How children can laugh and young people fall in love, with this terrible law before them which must be obeyed, and which menaces every violation of its dark legislation with direful penalties.

There is an old ballad which tells a pretty story of how a fair princess was once metamorphosed by a spell which took from her all her beauty, and made her wrinkled, ugly and old. If a knight dared kiss her in this hateful guise, however, every charm returned to her, and he held in his arms a lovely reward for the generous chivalry which had prompted him to knightly kindness.

Realities threaten us in much the same fashion. We are frightened because we are taught that they represent law, but if we are courageous enough to understand the law, we discover that it produces the miracle of their transformation. The lion in our pathway is after all only a stuffed creature, deprived of teeth and never ravenous, while we hold in our hand the witches staff, which will restore to life every creature that fear has turned to stone.

The world has lived for ages in terror of realities which do not exist, and in the presence of miracles waiting to be recognized.

"I shall never go hungry!" cries the stomach, and the reality of commercial fear disappears instantly.

"I shall never be naked!" exclaims the body, and another reality staggers away reduced to most phantasmal proportions.

Hatred and fear have blocked the pathway of progress since the first days of creation, but as soon as love says, "I live and govern the world;" they must fade into the shadowy outlines of nothingness. As the earth blossoms into fragrance and bloom under the power of the sun, so life becomes buoyant with beautiful possibility and attainment, under the beneficent influence of love. We seldom stop to consider to what an extent we are our own jailers and misfortune breeders. The moment a prospect darkens apparently, we create its law. We declare "this will ruin me!" and instantly our castle is in fragments. If we stand still, however, and say boldly, "there is a meaning in this which I do not understand. It is all good, and I must trust in its unfoldment," then, Presto!—the darkness begins to disappear, the silver radiance of love penetrates the shadow of disaster, and the end is better than the most glorious beginning could have promised.

The secret of living is to pull down the wall separating us from "The Eternal," which is only outside of ourselves while the wall exists. Once down, there is no bar to the vibration of memory, and we know nothing but joy. In such joy, life becomes a never ending miracle, according to the old-time conception of miracle, for miracle is believed to be the overcoming of outward reality by inward unicity. Change the terms and know where reality actually lies, then so-called miracle is continuous, because love reigns. The world has been observing for ages the gradual evolution of evil into good, and now at last we are beginning to recognize the evolution, so that we can assist its progress. We know that the recognition of illness produces it, the recognition of anger increases it, the recognition of malice and uncharitableness, establish them in the world.

The lilies of the field blossom from their moist roots in sunshine and rain, fed by every phase of the existence of which they are a part. Peace and beauty alone are manifested through them, and no evil passion blasts their life. They shine on through the night knowing that day will come, and never hesitate in the unfoldment of their petals.

So if we recognize that life is all, no misfortune can withstand our presence. Pain cannot hold us, pain cannot wear upon us, misfortune cannot touch us, and all our pain is but

the radius of our sunshine, must share in its inspiration. Life becomes a beautiful and endless miracle, for the love which carries and enfolds it is eternal.

MARY HANFORD FORD.

\* \* \* \* \*

### "MEDIUMSHIP."

WHAT IS MEDIUMSHIP, AND WHO ARE MEDIUMS?

*Everything* is mediumistic, and every atom is a medium for the expression of spiritual force, and God alone is the great central controlling Spirit. *The Universe is one mighty inconceivable medium, and Deity the controlling and omnipotent Spirit.* The passive becomes the medium of the active state; consequently, matter is, and must be the absolute medium of mind, and the passive nature of the soul is the medium for the Divine Spirit. Man is the great pivot, around which revolves every phase of magical, magnetic and mental phenomena. Just as our objective organism is governed and controlled by absolute laws, strictly applicable to its nature, so is the internal constitution under the government of laws equally in harmony with its purely subjective nature. These laws constitute the science of the soul and by understanding them, we not only guard ourselves from many dangers, but enjoy without fear its countless and unlimited blessings. By the aid of this glorious knowledge we are enabled to perceive the action and interaction of the two great planes of existence. The flower that blooms in beauty, breathing forth to the air its fragrance, which is at once grateful to the senses and stimulating to the nerves, is a perfect emblem of nature's faultless mediumship. The flower is a medium for the transmission to the human body of those finer essences, and of their spiritual portion to the soul; the soul receives according to its development, for the aroma of the flower is spiritualized to such a degree as to act upon the life currents of the system, inputting to the spiritual body a nutriment of the finest quality that physical substance can afford.

Herein may be seen some of the mysteries of incense. In the exact proportion to the refinement of substance is the sphere vitalized by spirit. In the brain and nervous system of the

This paper was formed in typewritten MSS. on the street, by an earnest inquirer after Truth, who for the time was seeking an answer to the question: "In what is the healing." It occurred then, and does now, a crowd and just answer to all the intricacies of the problem. (1905.)



human being, the climax of material vitalization is reached; here, spirit blends with matter in such requisite force and grade as is sufficient to form the astro-magnetic link of connection between the two worlds of cause and effect; and it is the same with mental power.

Intelligence is ever vitalized from the great Deific fountain of wisdom. When these laws are understood and taken into consideration, the occult student will see how necessary it is for those who wish to develop their spiritual possibilities, to live a pure, chaste life, and live upon a pure, vegetable diet, and also if one can, live amid flowery fields and pine-clad mountains, to fit the mind and educate the soul for the highest attainments; while on the other hand you cannot fail to see, that one who lives in close, unhealthy and densely populated cities, and in addition to this, are surrounded by sickly or selfish minds, become subject to the very lowest planes of spiritual activity, and if they have become too negative are in danger of elementary obsession and wickedness; hence the need of understanding the occult laws of life. Avoid seeking for phenomena or unconscious mediumship; seek for soul illumination alone.

These are laws of TRANSMISSION:

1. Activity.
2. Positiveness.
3. Attraction.

These are the laws of RECEPTION:

1. Passivity.
2. Sensitiveness.
3. Affinity.

The first trinity belongs to the controlling force, the second to the medium. Man is the instrument through which higher states manifest their wisdom and power, and this extends from the lowest specimen in the scale of humanity, upward to the highest initiated Adept; he is still a medium for still higher forces than his own, on and on, up to God. The difference from the lowest to the highest is that of development, or of one quality and degree corresponding to each one's receptive states. Man, according to his state, assimilates the specific grade of life essence from the universal store-house which corresponds exactly to the quality and development of his soul. As you ascend higher in the scale of spiritual development, you receive the finer essences and the coarser atoms are repelled and transmitted to less perfect organisms; and so it is on the mental plane, each receives that which he is able to make use of, as all knowledge and power is, for him, in the good old maxim, and

and each has his or her special work to do. It is very necessary for each individual soul to follow a system, specially adapted to its special state, and each person must find out for himself the special development required for him, unless he finds some illuminated soul, capable of reading his soul's requirements aright, and thus giving him the necessary information.

There is a trinity of laws that all must observe for the soul's unfoldment. 1st. Physical harmony in one's surroundings. 2d. Mental peace and freedom from worldly cares. 3d. Spiritual purity and complete isolation from impure currents of thought. Evolve the states from within. Purity is the great touch-stone, and as Jesus has truly taught, "Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God." If we cannot be perfect, let us be as perfect as our surroundings render possible. Learn to say I WILL, and I will not, and when you have said it, see that your assertion is sacredly maintained. Let us all remember that the material life of man is only one second of his existence and that it is one of the most unprofitable things in the world to be selfish. One writer has said, "Selfishness is the road to the Hells of the Soul world." Think of and realize the words of the wise Proclus, "Know the Divinity that is within you that you may know the Divine One, of which your soul is a ray." Illumination comes when all attachments to individuals have been cut away, and when in the place of attachment, we realize we are floating in a sea of universal Love—love for everybody, for all of God's creatures; there is no separateness.

As soon as the inner eye is opened, it sees the Star that will be its guide to ETERNAL LIFE. Follow this Star with earnestness, for it is easy to live an earnest spiritual life, but very difficult to live one half way; you are sure to fall between the two. Jesus says: "You cannot serve two masters." Do not be too anxious to open people's eyes. Should you pick open the eye of a new born puppy or kitten you would spoil them; they must ripen to the opening, and so must every individual Soul, and as soon as the light shines in our own, others will see and feel it, and desire it, then we can help them.

"Though Christ a thousand times  
In Bethlelem be born,  
But not within thyself,  
Thy soul will be forlorn."

\* \* \* \* \*

The perfectest wisdom is simplicity.

## COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS!

**C**OUNT your blessings! "Mine are soon counted," answered a discontented voice, "I have so few—or, rather, none to count." And that voice is the echo of how many complaining hearts!

It is startling to note how seldom people are conscious of their actual, indisputable blessings! Not that they are ignored through positive and perverse ingratitude, but partly from sheer want of reflection, partly because custom steals the value from the boon which we habitually receive. And yet, how bountifully those simple, daily blessings are showered down upon the poorest, humblest, saddest of us all! And what loud lamentations we send up, to beat against the pearly gates, when the least heeded, the least prized, the very commonest, is denied!

Those who groan under the burden of multi-form sorrows, are, usually, so absorbed in their personal afflictions that they let the scales God placed in every human hand, (to show his beneficence outweigh man's self-sprung woes,) drop from their nerveless grasp, and forget to balance the good gifts granted against the securing evil permitted!

Those who have no highly-exciting joys, and yet no heavy griefs, often lose the sense of priceless blessings in the stupefying movement of a monotonous existence.

Those upon whose heads the golden rays of prosperity descend in unbroken floods, who have few wishes, and no needs, ungratified—are frequently less cognizant than all others of the opulent store of benefits poured out upon them.

Yet can any of us call to mind a single being so superlatively miserable that in his saddest past—most sorrowful present—most menacing future, he can count up no blessings which demand the most costly, quiescent, easy gratitude of mere recognition?

It is a useful, a holy, a heart-expanding practice, daily, to sit down and ponder over, and sum up, the manifest blessings which have been accorded us, and which we could not murmuringly forego! How great will even those who cry out that they have received few, or none, find their allotted share! Try the experiment, doubted and see if it be not so!

Resolve that it shall be one of the daily duties of your life, one of its indispensable employments, to seek out and sum up each day's bless-

## LIGHT ON THE SCIENCE OF ASTROLOGY.

CONTINUED.

**W**E say the Sun gives us life, light and heat; the Sun and Moon sway the great waters of our globe; but were it not for the Life Principle existing in all manifestation, and the receptive principle of all latent energy, there would be no life upon our planet; there would be no motion to the great waters.

The Sun by virtue of its own intense, self-existent, life-giving, electric principle excites into action the germ of life and light throughout the Solar system, and practically gives indication of the degree of consciousness, existing in every visible thing from stone, mineral, through vegetable and animal up to the physical and spiritual realm of Man.

Likewise the Moon gives indication of the degree of receptive quality possible in a human life, the degree of its susceptibility.

When the soul leaves its shell—commonly called the body—all human susceptibility goes with it, but soon after a new phase of life is generated by the chemical process of decomposition which demonstrates that there is still a latent energy existing, even in the cast off shell, that wise Mother Nature carefully makes use of and as carefully excites into activity for her own wonderful purposes. Ignorance calls this destruction!

The Sun is electric, the Moon is magnetic. The Sun gives, the Moon receives and dispenses the Life Force.

Our bodies being five-sevenths liquid, and moisture being the most inductive of all known substances, our bodies act and react in sympathy with the electric and magnetic currents prevailing in our atmosphere. When it is over-charged with moisture our bodies respond in sympathy to the prevailing currents, and becoming negative yield unconsciously to the slower vibrations of the natural elements. This, if added to a low vibration of mental energy, which by rights should be the resisting agent, results in physical inertia and the consequent susceptibility called dis-ease.

The red corpuscles of our blood act in sympathy with the life-giving rays of the Sun and are electric, positive in their nature. The white corpuscles act in sympathy with the receptive rays of the Moon and are magnetic, negative in quality. The marvelous action

and reaction of Divine Force is eternally operating within our bodies, taking on and putting off, or transmitting the various forms and qualities of our manifestation. The Sun and Moon—the greater and the lesser “Lights” or *Principles*,—and the Planets or “the Lights” are ever ready to demonstrate to us the means of knowing in what proportion we are acting in sympathy with, or retarding the action of the Natural and Divine Law, or in what proportion the red vital Principle of our blood dominates, the white negative and intuitional power of our Will.

The planets are magnets and are constantly throwing off their fluids into space. We are *human* magnets, and possess like qualities of attraction and repulsion, positive and negative force, exerting that influence with marked effect consciously or unconsciously upon each other and everything about us. Being magnets, and acting in sympathy with all other magnetic and electric fluids permeating the Universe and our own atmosphere, we are rendered susceptible to their indications, thus it has been wrongly stated that the planets *rule* our destinies and are the “*causes*” of good and so-called “evil.”

The Soul, when seeking manifestation by that Omnipotent Law of Affinity; Cause and Effect; compensation, order and cohesion seeks, and is drawn to that particular environment, co-operating with its degree of development and sympathetic with its qualities.

Parents make and are responsible for the conditions. The position of the planets at birth give the indications, but the planets are not the “*Causes*” of any part of the great scheme. The *Cause* is the irresistible impulse of the Divine Mind to manifest in *conscious* unity. The effect is interlinked with that individual entity, and the law operating with the parents when life became possible.

The planets give ample indication of the quality and possibilities existing in this most subtle of demonstrations—the human birth; but the human birth is an *effect* not a cause, the effect being accentuated by the degrees of consciousness in the human law that has been made by that Soul and its parents.

What is the human law, do I hear someone ask? It is the law that man makes for himself, through the conscious or unconscious interweavings of his intellect, free will and choice; the law in many instances that has been made from will of error, of choice that

has been carried from life to life, from manifestation to manifestation, until it finally must be recognized by the human soul as the law of error, unstable and weak, and is consciously dealt with, transmuted and spiritualized back into its natural and Divine attributes.

The incarnation of the Divine and Natural Law is the *visible* structure of the whole and verse. The *re-incarnation* of the individualized human soul, is a logical fulfilment, a necessary consequence; since the human soul is the highest evolution of the Natural law.

The fact of this present incarnation gives the precedent to succeeding incarnations. Since one manifestation is necessary, yet fails to complete the sequence of our FULL consciousness of our likeness to God—is it then incompatible with logic that individual *human consciousness* takes on successive manifestations, until that perfect Oneness is established with the Divine Law and is recognized as such, until every germ cell of the manifested body is purified by the Thought Aspirations, and becoming one with the glorified inner body dwells with the supreme consciousness, gradually emerging the Individual into the Universal, the human soul into the Divine soul. Each individual in its own good time realizing the Divine privilege, until every atom of flesh, and form, and shape is so purified, made so conscious, that the soul of the Planet becomes permeated with the individual consciousness, and, Behold! glad tidings of great joy ring out from the Eons of the ages—for unto the Universe, a SON is born.

Every planet is an evolving Sun. Every human soul an evolving Christ.

One manifestation, or one period of activity upon the plane of human consciousness, pre-disposes another manifestation, that which is possible in the Now, is possible to the future and must have been possible to the past.

The physical law of progress demonstrates the succession of physical changes in one life from babe to child, from child to man, from man to old man or fruition—a change and sequence of form, of constituent elements yet preserving the identical individuality.

May not the psychical law of progress demonstrate a similar succession in the many manifestation or incarnations a soul takes on before it comes into its fullest realization? Before it can become a SON or Sun of God—A Christ? GERRIT DE BELSKET.

THE HERMETIST, VOL. 1, NO. 1, 1901.

## RELIGION AND LAW.

TRUE, appallingly true, is the fact of judgment to come, and inexorable as fate its coming. For it is the revealing of what we are, that birth into spirit life, disclosing under rigid law the qualities of the true self; it is a strictly continuous process, and he who may desire to know how he will appear in that new life has only to think how he would be ashamed to go among the highest, noblest men and women with all his thoughts spoken aloud as each arises in his mind, for that is the state he has to enter into. Fair as a sculptor's dream, unstained by greed or malice, will show the souls of some of earth's humblest, not because they are rewarded for having been poor, but because they are strong and pure and brave and true; while terrible will be the awakening of those enervated by materiality, or who have thought that devotion to a creed can cover the want of that love for man which works unselfishly for the higher good."

The wonders of development in life are here and now as well as hereafter. The wildest dream of the magician of the Middle Ages never essayed to compass a more marvelous feat than is suggested by one of the most recent experiments in electrical science on the human body. Wonderful as is the phenomena of the X ray, this latest discovery surpasses that. The Roentgen ray directed to the human body reveals the bones; but it is now found that minute globules of electricity can be swallowed with the effect of making the entire body transparent. If there is an opaque spot it is because that it locates some disease or defect. If there is perfect health there is perfect transparency. In proportion as there is not this transparency is the defective physical condition. This new discovery seems to correspond on the physical plane with the aspects of spiritual life on the spiritual plane. The ethereal body expresses the quality of spiritual life and this life will begin with just that state to which one has attained,—with just the degree he has achieved when the transition from this world to the other comes. The term so commonly in use,—the other world, is a misnomer. Death is a change of condition rather than of location, and the life still goes on by progression. As the infant is moved in the child; the child in the youth; the youth in the

as maturity moves on to age, so is the evolutionary progress of the spirit, sojourning for a time in the physical body, and then casting off that body for its finer ethereal counterpart.

Looking backward over past ages the observer of the panorama of history realizes how infinitely finer is the civilization on the eve of the twentieth century than ever before. The age of the material is not passed, but the age of spirit has certainly begun. The supremacy of spirit is everywhere asserted. More and more is humanity realizing that material things are the servants of spiritual forces, and that the spiritual achievement is the raison d'être of embodied existence. For instance, the true view of the physical life is as a means, not as an end. The body is clothed, fed, refreshed variously; not because food and clothing are an end, per se, but because it is the instrument of the spirit, and in order that it may accomplish its work, it must be kept in good condition. Here is just the point where the higher life differentiates from the lower life. The higher asserts the supremacy of the spirit as the real man, whose works and ways are of significance and uses the material things as tools to its accomplishments. The real man is one and the same in this life, or in what we call the other life. He persists. He casts off the physical body and emerges into a realm of higher and finer forces. This life is very clumsy compared with that. The amount of impediments one must drag about with him when he travels, and even to some extent when he merely goes out for business, or visits, is while here unavoidable; but the mere fact of being free from the care of the body liberates the real man, as is easily seen, from a host of encumbrances. Not but that these have their use. It is not he who denies and deserts, but he who is nobly true to his present trust who is best prepared for the next step. Life may be a burden, but its cure is not found in suicide. Its richer results lie in experience, and all the pursuits and combinations of affairs furnish this experience. After this is gained the rudiments and factors may fall off. They are of no further consequence. But to deny their use is a fatal error. He is best prepared to enter on the life just beyond death who has lived here in the fullest and noblest way, who has held the largest relations with his life on the one side, and with all the divine life on the other.

## BOOK NOTICES.

DOCTOR PHELON has in preparation a work on healing, which is unique of its kind and startling in some of its statements. It does not deal with the old stereotyped formulas and mannerisms of much that has been put out along the line of Mental Science, but aims to take hold of the hidden Springs that underlie all the manifestation of the material conditions. We are sure that the most advanced practitioner will have their thought stirred by the ideas advanced. It will be put out in popular form to suit the times, at an early date.

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## BOOK NOTICES.—Continued.

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