

THE ORACLE.

EXPONENT OF WEST GATE PHILOSOPHY.

ISSUED MONTHLY.

CHARLES H. MACKAY, - - - - - Editor and Publisher.

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Stars of the Zodiac.

CANCER.

To the naked eye this constellation is one of the most insignificant of the twelve. Its two principle stars are fourth magnitude and are separated by a distance not quite equal to that which separates Castor and Pollux, which I pointed out in last month's ORACLE. These two stars are known to astronomers as Gamma and Delta; the first-named being farthest north, and they occupy a position at the very centre of the constellation. Now if we select a clear, moonless evening during the present month and turn our eyes to that section of the heavens directly overhead at eight to nine, we will have little difficulty in locating the group under consideration. Cancer will be seen quite near the stars of Gemini (located in last issue) and somewhat to the east. Directly between the two fourth magnitude stars just mentioned the careful observer will see what at first seems like a faint patch of light. This strange object is popularly known as the "Præsepe" nebula, or the "bee-hive." It is one of the most interesting of the naked eye nebulæ, and when once the student has located it he will always find great pleasure in future observations. A telescope will resolve this cluster into separate and distinct stars. But to the naked eye the members of the cluster are so near together that the light interblends and the group appears simply as one blurry patch of light. There are three other stars of Cancer of about the same magnitude as those just mentioned. These three are known as Alpha and Beta (south of the nebula), and Iota (north of

the nebula). The constellations immediately surrounding Cancer are as follows: the Lynx on the north; Gemini and Canis Minor on the west; Hydra on the south, and Leo Major on the east. . . . We wish to suggest that those who are interested in these articles immediately take up the study of the Greek alphabet. We shall constantly make reference to Greek letters, for they are used in the designation of all the principle stars of the heavens. For example, the stars of Gemini are named (in order of magnitude and importance) Alpha Geminorum (which is "Castor"), Beta Geminorum ("Pollux"), etc., etc., and this system is followed with each constellation. This alphabet is very easily committed and is doubtless available to all our readers. Next month we shall explain the position of Leo, which at the present time is honored with the presence of the brilliant Jupiter. Remember that the positions of the stars are the same for the corresponding month of each year. At least the change is so slight during a lifetime that it cannot be detected by ordinary observation.

—The silent communion of the W. G. Brotherhood takes place each Monday evening at 8 o'clock, Eastern time. The general thought to be held during the usual half-hour of the session is this: "We desire to become instruments for uplifting humanity. We are willing servants in the Creator's hands for this purpose, and we realize that we must become *individually* purified before we can work with power as a Brotherhood." Eight o'clock Eastern time is seven o'clock Central time, six o'clock Mountain time and five o'clock Western time. When the exact hour cannot be observed it is well to devote the half hour later in the evening, after retiring, even, if preferable. *All* spiritual people are invited to observe this weekly half hour, whether they are recorded with the Brotherhood or not. "In unity there is strength."

—An esteemed correspondent severely criticises a suggestion which we made in an early issue of the ORACLE.*

* Sept. 1895.

The suggestion was made in the article "A New England Colony," and was to the effect that the would-be colonists might form an organization as a preliminary step in the right direction, and start the foundation of a fund for the purchase of a farm, and that said fund might be wisely invested, meanwhile, where it would bear interest until the site of the colony was fully settled and the fund of sufficient size to assure the cash purchase. Our friend apparently loses sight of every good point made, and concentrates his attention upon the one idea of interest, or *usury*, as he expresses it. He holds that the custom of demanding interest, as at present, is one of the curses of civilization and that it must be done away with. It seems to us that the most casual reader of that article must understand that our motive was pure enough in making the suggestion and that, from the standpoint of enlightened justice as well as from a strictly business view of the matter, it is not so far out of the way after all. There are countless things in the business world which are distasteful and annoying to the advanced mind, and yet while we are thrown so intimately among the hard business associations we cannot wholly keep above their effects. And really it is the *abuse* of a thing that works the injury. The parable of the buried talent teaches us that interest is all right if properly and wisely treated. Moreover we have constant evidence in all the works of God and nature that interest (in varied form) is a part of the Divine plan. "To him that hath shall be added unto him, etc." is a law which we can fully demonstrate by simply opening our eyes and looking about us. It is not a sin to *possess*; nor is it sinful to accept new gifts as a *result* of possessing. The sin lies in the mis-use of things.

—Perhaps there is no one point of more importance to the spiritualistic class of occult students than the development of mediumistic powers. The discredit which is so frequently thrown upon spiritualists in general because of the "frauds" and "cheats" which abound in circles,

materializations, etc., is a matter which would be forever remedied if more attention were given to the wise training of the medium. It is largely an individual affair, and yet it cannot be denied that a wise co-operation (by those who understand the laws of spirit communion, and the extreme sensitiveness of the mediums themselves) would be a very important step in the right direction. But the question is an individual one in that upon the point of strength and balance of the organism depends the quality of the communication. The medium becomes lost in the glamor of phenomena and forgets his own organism and its requirements. Let him *first* get his body and mind in a high state of healthfulness and balance and the communications which he then shall get will be uniformly satisfactory.

—One grand aim of West Gate Philosophy is to raise up teachers to spread the truth before all people who are ready for it. But I hope you will do it in your own way. Don't be governed by the *letter* of my teachings. If you have a call to give out assistance to a searcher of wisdom, do it according to the dictates of the guide within *you*. This guide is absolutely reliable if trusted implicitly. However humble your efforts may be at the start, and however unappreciative your "pupils" yet this must not discourage you. Press onward and by your desire to aid others you will get new light for higher and broader fields of labor.

—"Evidences of a Regenerate Life" is the subject treated in Lesson No. XII of the White Eagle Series. The standard is a high one and yet entirely within the possibilities of the earth life. Each lesson of this series is a foundation upon which may be builded a long course of original instruction. In future years my students will demonstrate this both to their spiritual and financial advantage. These new private lessons are calling forth testimonials of deepest appreciation. Any occult student who has the determination to follow the suggestions given will soon be conscious of an awakening of his dormant forces to which he has heretofore been a stranger. This

is the object which the author, in their preparation, had in view. The full price is five dollars, which amount may be paid in monthly installments when desired.

—Faith is the keynote of love, as it is of religion. There is, first of all, faith in the possible excellences not yet realized, and even where the expectation is not fulfilled, it is the duty of the spouse to remain and to continue to love. For it is in our power by an act of will to love, even as Jesus taught we should love. When the actual being is not loveable, we must still love the angelic being, which is behind the actual, in the temper which brings forth good by persisting in seeing it.—*Felix Adler on the "Ethics of Marriage."*

—A Boston paper recently published a communication in the form of an inquiry from a reader who wished to know if the "new star" now visible in the northwest was "Edison's star." As I have been a pretty close student of the heavens I was a little surprised that a new star (!) had made its appearance so suddenly without my having seen it. Accordingly I wrote for further light upon the subject. Up to date I have not been enlightened, however. A key to the mystery may possibly be found in a query of a young friend who asked me if I had seen that "big electric light which hangs in the west about nine o'clock each evening, and which is pulled down soon after that time?" Not a little surprised I made several inquiries and learned further that it was a new experiment of Edison's, and that said "light" was sent up each evening from some point in New Jersey! I asked my informant if he had seen it and he said, "O, yes, I saw it last night," and from his detailed description I found that I, too, had seen it regularly each night, but that I had always supposed it to be Venus!!

—Be not deceived by statements to the effect that you can be "healed" by any power outside yourself. Believe not the person who tells you that he, or she, can change your entire life, etc. These people have no power to

"heal" themselves, nor to miraculously elevate their own lives; at least, if they possess the power they fail to use it in a manner to be seen in their daily lives. I have been so disappointed in these noisy demonstrations and claims. I have seen and heard the most saintly things in the words of "teachers" and then have been so bitterly disappointed when I have caught a glimpse of their lives, and have noted that they had all the usual weaknesses and habits of the most ordinary mortal! I have read the statements of "scientists" regarding "perpetual youth and beauty," then I have met these people face to face and have been thoroughly dumbfounded at the evidences of *premature* decay and death written in face and form! Yet I am saying nothing against the theories, but of their personal impotency to *directly* do anything for you; hence I warn you, "be not deceived thereby." The only service which can be done you is in the line of showing you the path through which you may plod and finally reach the Light by your own sovereign effort. And it is in this humble office of guide and counsellor that the West Gate Philosophy is doing so much service among the people who have been through all these preliminaries of the many occult "schools" and theories.

—We have received a bright and helpful booklet entitled "Like God." It is full of inspiring thought and comes to us from the office of "Paradise," a free monthly paper published at Peterboro, Ontario.

—Through the liberality of a true friend of the West Gate movement we have just issued an eight page pamphlet entitled "The Astral Occupant." It is intended for free circulation, and we will send you as many copies as you can circulate among your occult friends. If you feel to enclose stamps to cover cost of postage, etc., the favor will be duly appreciated.

—"The Perfect Faith" has made its appearance, and the March issue is full of good things. Edited by H. B. Magill, Box 1455, Denver, Col. Sample copy free.

—"The Gray Ladye, by Herself," is the title of a book just received. It treats of spiritualistic principles, although upon a higher basis than most modern works in this line. The price is 25 cents, and it may be obtained of the publisher, Mrs. E. H. Mace, No. 8 Lienau Place, Jersey City Heights, N. J.

—Mr. E. E. Rogers, Orchard, Ohio, has quite a number of useful occult books in good condition which he will sell at great discount from regular prices.

—Astronomy is the science of the harmony of infinite expanse.—*Lord John Russell.*

—The contemplation of celestial things will make a man both speak and think more sublimely and magnificently when he descends to human affairs.—*Cicero.*

—An undevout astronomer is mad.—*Young.*

—If you receive several copies of the ORACLE during the year do not conclude that we are trying to *force* you to become a subscriber, nor that a bill will follow. This is not our method of doing business. We never send a bill even to our regular subscribers who are in arrears, except by their request. Neither do we insist upon payment from those who are unable to pay. We leave these matters to be settled by each reader of the ORACLE as his or her conscience may dictate. Most publishers would smile at such a method (or lack of method), but thus far the ORACLE has been favored with quite pronounced prosperity and we see no reason for change of policy.

—Dr. Young's interesting essay, "The Fall of Man," will be concluded in May issue.

—"What is a 'Master'?" This question is discussed in No. 5 of our "Esoteric Development" series, issued in 1891-92. Also in the same series (No. 10) we have the main portion of an able article entitled "The Building of the Temple." Both pamphlets will be mailed for 10 cents. Silver or one cent stamps accepted.

—To any reader of this issue who will remit ten cents in silver or stamps we will send the ORACLE three months, as a trial subscription.



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These ten lessons deal plainly with our foundation principles such as the Dream Consciousness, Mental and Physical Harmony, the Mystery of Speech, etc. They contain carefully prepared drills and exercises. Very useful to the student during his first years in the path. This course was issued in '91 and '92 under the title "Esoteric Development" and "The West Gate," \$1.00.

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This Journal is published in the interests of all people who are struggling with environment; who are seeking a comprehension of the earth mission; who are striving to know the scope and the right uses of the dormant powers of the "Temple of the Holy Ghost," namely, the human body.

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CHAS. H. MACKAY, Editor the Oracle.

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EXPONENT OF WEST GATE PHILOSOPHY,

A Journal of Progress, Dedicated to the People of High Ideals

HERALD OF A NEW SYSTEM OF OCCULT TRAINING.

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Remember constantly that each upward step which YOU take, and each victory which YOU achieve is a direct and potent influence toward the "salvation" of all the world. The INDIVIDUAL victories must first be attained.—C. H. M.

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Vol 2.

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No. 11.

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