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DOT'S CORNER.

Theosophy and Woman.

I have received the following very concise report of two interesting events which have taken place recently in Toronto, viz: the celebration held in memory of the most remarkable woman of the century, whether we regard her as a fakir or as a seer; and an outline of some of the questions to be discussed at the national council of women beginning to-day (Monday). As the accounts are written by a lady "on the spot" and thoroughly conversant with what she writes about I cannot do better than introduce without more preliminary E. M. L.'s letter.

DOT.

On the 8th inst theosophists, the world over, celebrated the fourth anniversary of the death of their founder, Helena Petrovna Blavatsky. Whatever occult reasons may be at the root of the matter, Madam Blavatsky, like Napoleon, seems to be a fashionable topic of conversation just at present. Among other magazines, the Arena, last month, discussed her life and work. Four years dead, her every act and word held up to the keenest investigation, and still, thousands have not yet been able to decide whether she was a marvel of truth and intellect or an impostor. Between these two extremes there is emphatically no choice, for whatever else this woman was, she was not ordinary.

In Toronto, a quarter of a century ago, the Church of the New Jerusalem attracted to itself much the same "manner of man" that one now finds in the Toronto Theosophical society—that is, men and women who are demanding a broader platform (whether rightly or wrongly) than can be found within the regular churches. Almost every one who comes into contact with these people concedes that they are unusually thoughtful and philosophic. As they offer nothing but what they term a rational philosophy of life, their growth is not at all phenomenal, the society numbering at present, I believe, about forty.

The celebration exercises, on the 8th, at the little hall on Spadina Avenue, were very pretty and quite unique to the uninitiated. The prime mover in Theosophy in Toronto, Albert E. S. Smythe, gave a comprehensive address entitled, "The Main Idea of Theosophy." It seems that Edwin Arnold's poem, The Light of Asia, was a great favorite with Madame Blavatsky, accordingly one young lady read aloud most delightfully from this poem, whose rhythmic measures so well suit expression aloud. Another member read aloud from the Sacred Writings of India. Theosophist's study many scriptures, and by no means neglect the Christian writings, as they are supposed to do. . . . To those present who were not so particularly interested in Theosophic lore, perhaps the inspiring feature of the program was the address on "Brotherhood" by Toronto's favorite student of the Social Question, Phillips Thompson. Mr. Thompson was ever logical and many times eloquent as he earnestly set forth the idea that true fellow-feeling, true recognition of the rights of others; in short, Brotherhood, would regenerate society.

The pictured face of Madame Blavatsky, with its inscrutable expression, looked down upon us from the wall as we listened, and sent us away wondering how much of truth and how much of error are bound up in this movement, which is, perhaps, the most modern reaching-out of the human mind after the Infinite.

Preparatory to the great gathering, the National Council of Women, which is to be held in Toronto on the last five days of May, the founder, Lady Aberdeen, presiding, the Toronto local Council of Women held a special meeting on Monday last in the Normal School. The assemblage was made up of women from almost every walk of life. It was decidedly pleasant to note the wealthy woman of leisure conferring earnestly with the working-woman over their joint necessities as women. As they discussed the problems which are to be ventilated at the National Council, and as this Council will be composed of women from all parts of Canada, and representing almost every woman's society therein, these women being assembled to vote on these problems, it seems to me that every Canadian woman should know what are the questions at issue, so as to intelligently cast her own vote thereon, or if unable herself to be present, to influence the vote of the delegate representing her.

For instance, one of the matters to receive attention, I understand, is the advisability of petitioning the Dominion government to shorten the day of women factory-workers to nine hours. Immediately that it was introduced for preliminary discussion in the Local Council, the question came up, "would not such a regulation affect, unfavorably, the women who work by the piece?"

At first sight it would appear so; but, on inquiry, we find that it is precisely for the sake of these women that such a regulation should be made. "What!" one says, "diminish their already narrow chances of earning a livelihood?" But the matter assumes a different aspect when we find that because of the over-labor of some of the women who work by the piece, wages have been cut for the entire number again and again. But how can that be? In this way I am informed that some girls work such hours, and to such excess, that at the close of the day they have fairly to grip themselves to keep from nervous spasms;

they cannot converse, they cannot enjoy anything, they manage thus to reach, some weeks, \$11. What is the result? The employer does not think it necessary, perhaps, for one girl to get so much, so he lowers rates all round. One working girl assures me that this has been the case four times in her experience.

This grave matter, affecting the very lives of hundreds of women throughout Canada, is to be discussed at the National Council. Will you not reflect on what you think should be done regarding it?

Then again, another question introduced for preliminary discussion, was the matter of supplying to the public statistical records regarding the status of Canadian women. It seemed to be the opinion of the majority of those present that such a proceeding would not only be unnecessary but pernicious. As one woman expressed it, "we wish to make our work, as women, felt, rather than talked about; we deprecate the modern tendency of rushing into print." This sounds commendable. But can women engage in any public work without getting into print? Was not Mouday's meeting reported in all the next day's papers? And, after all, who is this public, that it is supposed to be laudatory in women to hold aloof from? Is it not composed of their fathers and brothers, and should they not be ready to accept due responsibility in making part of it? Then suppose a few decades hence, some statistics are required as to the status of women during the latter part of the nineteenth century. If women, illiberally, and from false notions of modesty, refuse these now, where are they to be obtained when needed? Many people, too, on access to statistics, will note evils of whose existence, perhaps, they had been utterly ignorant; so the suppression of these records, might, in some cases, defeat the very object towards which the women of the Council are working, namely: the amelioration of the condition of their sisters.

Would it not appear that since this society is the national council of women it would be unfair to introduce into it any rites that would be the means of excluding any particular race or sect of women resident in Canada? As the term national is used, should not the platform be broad enough for every Canadian woman? It is apparent that if the Christian form of prayer, for example, is used in opening and closing, the Jewish woman would, from conscientious scruples, be excluded? "Should we exclude her" is another question that is worthy the reflection of every liberal-minded woman. E. M. L.

A prosperous farmer named Wm. Young living near Ayton became violently insane lately and was taken to Owen Sound.

Heart Disease Relieved in 30 Minutes—Dr. Agnew's wr Cure of the Heart gives perfect relief in all cases of Gorgonic or Sympathetic Heart Disease in 30 minutes, and speedily effects a cure. It is a peerless remedy for Palpitation, Shortness of Breath, Smothering Spells, Pain in Left Side and all symptoms of a Diseased Heart. One dose convinces. Sold by W. E. Richardson.

A young man named Moore, of Parry Sound, had to pay \$9.20 for trying to kiss one of the fair sex of that town. The Star wants to know what the completed article would cost if an attempt is valued at \$9.20.

Catarrh Relieved in 10 to 60 Minutes—One short puff of the breath through the blower, supplied with each bottle of Dr. Agnew's Catarrhal Powder, diffuses this powder over the surface of the nasal passages. Painless and delightful to use, it relieves instantly, and permanently cures Catarrh, Hay Fever, Colds, Headache, Sore Throat, Tonsillitis and Deafness. 60 cents. At W. E. Richardson's.

Peter York, the old Indian who lived in Thorubury, has been sentenced to one year in Barrie jail, for committing a criminal assault, his victim being a 13-year old girl of Collingwood. Peter York is nearing the century mark.—Standard.

A Boon to Horsemen—One bottle of English Spavin Liniment completely removed a curb from my horse. I take pleasure in recommending the remedy, as it acts with mysterious promptness in the removal from horses of hard, soft or calloused lumps, blood spavin, splints, curbs, swellings, stifles and sprains.
 GEORGE ROBB, Farmer,
 Markham, Ont.
 Sold by W. E. Richardson, Druggist

A patent egg tester vendor sold a patent right for the affair to a Mr. McLeod, of Chesley, for three notes aggregating \$150. Mr. McLeod shortly afterwards discovered that there was no patent on the thing and his "right" was imaginary. The notes were genuine, however.

Relief in 6 Hours—Distressing Kidney and Bladder diseases relieved in six hours by the "Great South American Kidney Cure." This new remedy is a great surprise and delight on account of its exceeding promptness in relieving pain in the bladder, kidneys, back and every part of the urinary passages in male or female. It relieves retention of pain in passing it almost immediately. If you want quick relief and cure this is your remedy. Sold by W. E. Richardson, Druggist.

An exchange contains the following words of wisdom: "The man who gets the fewest letters complains most of the management of the post-office; the man who complains the most of preachers pays them the least; the man who complains the most of his neighbors is the meanest neighbor, and the man who has the least sense is the most conceited."


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FULL OF ENCOURAGEMENT FOR ALL WOMEN.

In Bed 5 Months—Had Given Up All Hope of Getting Well—A Remedy Found at Last to which "I Owe My Life."



Science has fully established the fact that all the nervous energy of our bodies is generated by nerve centres located near the base of the brain. When the supply of nerve force has been diminished either by excessive physical or mental labours, or owing to a derangement of the nerve centres, we are first conscious of a languor or tired and worn-out feeling, then of a mild form of nervousness, headache, or stomach trouble, which is perhaps succeeded by nervous prostration, chronic indigestion, and dyspepsia, and a general sinking of the whole system. In this day of hurry, fret and worry, there are very few who enjoy perfect health; nearly everyone has some trouble, an ache, or pain, a weakness, a nerve trouble, something wrong with the stomach and bowels, poor blood, heart disease, or sick headache; all of which are brought on by a lack of nervous energy to enable the different organs of the body to perform their respective work.

turn thoroughly oils, as it were, the machinery of the body, thereby enabling it to perform perfectly its different functions, and without the slightest friction.

If you have been reading of the remarkable cures wrought by South American Nerve, accounts of which we publish from week to week, and are still sceptical, we ask you to investigate them by correspondence, and become convinced that they are true to the letter. Such a course may save you months, perhaps years, of suffering and anxiety.

The words that follow are strong, but they emanate from the heart, and speak the sentiments of thousands of women in the United States and Canada who know, through experience, of the healing virtues of the South American Nerve Tonic.

Harriet E. Hall, of Waynetown, a prominent and much respected lady, writes as follows:—
 "I owe my life to the great South American Nerve Tonic. I have been in bed for five months with a scrofulous tumour in my right side, and suffered with indigestion and nervous prostration. Had given up all hopes of getting well. Had tried three doctors, with no relief. The first bottle of Nerve Tonic improved me so much that I was able to walk about, and a few bottles cured me entirely. I believe it is the best medicine in the world. I cannot recommend it too highly."

Three women, can you do better than become acquainted with this truly great remedy?
For Sale by Wm. Richardson.