

NOTES FROM A LECTURE ON OCCULTISM BY CLAUDE FALLS WRIGHT.

(Taken down by Mrs. M. W. Broun.)

Occultism is the science of the soul of nature, of the hidden nature of man, and of the universe. It is possible for us to see and comprehend the unseen forces of nature. All sciences endeavor in some way or other to do this. The eastern and western people have two distinct modes of study; the orientals develop the perceptive faculties, while the western people are analytic. In the east the first step is to understand by intuition; afterwards the knowledge thus gained is analysed. Knowledge in the west is an accumulation of facts. All theory is the result of intuition.

Things that are born at the same time move down similar cycles. This is the basis of astrology. Our habits, both physical and mental, move in circles. We have a tendency to think thoughts similar to those we have previously been thinking and old thoughts are apt to return to us. So with nations, and if the past be known the future can be approximated. The Hindus have a method by which they are able to read the future. Westerns will, of course, doubt this statement, but we have to remember that this ability to prophecy in their own lines is just what all scientists are aiming at. The astronomer prophesies the eclipse, the physician the crisis of the fever. If we recognize the possibility of understanding the cycles of thought and action in nature it will not appear so improbable.

The tendency, at present, in many lines of thought is to turn to the ideas of the ancients. This is the case, for example, in chemistry, and as people investigate more and more for themselves they will return more and more to eastern thought.

For the phenomena of hypnotism, mind-reading, and the like, modern science has no explanations, though many different theories have been advanced. By experiments in hypnotism it has been shown that an operator can cause a subject to be unable to see a card placed on an open book, and yet be able to read the book under and through the card. Western people only know that such things are done; they do not know their rationale. True occultism offers the explanation.

In Tibet there is a school of philosophers who spend their time in solving

these problems. Every century they have sent messengers or founded a society like the Theosophical Society for the purpose of giving their knowledge to the world. In the last century Mesmer founded "The Society of Hurouv," and taught the Universal Brotherhood of Mankind.

Besides this, he was able to explain the phenomena alluded to, and his explanations coincide with those given in the old Brahminical philosophy. Yet because the West was not ready to receive these truths Mesmer was ridiculed, and while his teaching is being adopted, he himself is even yet looked upon as a charlatan. For such phenomena to be intelligible it is necessary to understand the seven principles of which man is a composite. The French hypnotists discovered five different natures within each other in subjects experimented with and though they have not found the other two, their tendency is in the right direction.

The theosophical idea is that the body is constituted on such a plan as to need something to keep it together. Why does not a body fall to pieces? The atoms of the body are continually changing. How then is it that at the end of seven years we can still be recognized as the same person? Why does an acorn always produce an oak? The explanation is that behind all physical nature there is a mould on which the physical body is formed. This is the astral body. It is the model to which the physical atoms are attracted and on which they form themselves. Death is the separation of the physical and the etheric or astral body.

There is usually no connection between the mind of a person and the external objects, such as exists between his hand and brain, but such a connection can be established through the medium of the astral forces. In hypnotism the astral powers are thrown over the subject, and he is controlled by the operator. This is a very dangerous practice, and ought to be prohibited by law. When a person is hypnotised a connection between him and the operator is established which cannot be broken for at least seven years, and during all this time the subject is never free from the influence. In this way many crimes are committed, and the wrong person is punished because the subject has lost his free will and is controlled by the will of another. One should never, under any circumstances,