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THE FIFTH ANNUAL Report of the Indian Section T. S. (Adyar) is just to hand. The amendment of rules caused much debate. We submit a verbatim extract from pages 22-23, which may enable some of us to appreciate where we are at. THE LAMP, which is both democratic and radical in its principles, has no comment to make, though we should like to know what "The Independent Theosophists of Boston" think of it. "Mrs. Annie Besant then stood up and said that she had sat on the Committee in London which drafted the rules now before the Convention, and that therefore it behove her to explain the principle which that Committee had followed in framing the rules, and the difficulties these rules were intended to remove. She pointed out how the democratic tendency of the age had gradually made its way into the constitution of the Theosophical Society, and thereby completely vitiated its organization. She spoke strongly against the application of radical principles to spiritual movements, and showed how it hampered the real growth of the Society, and how therefore it was necessary for progress that complete confidence be placed in the President Founder and his chosen successors, and full powers vested in each of them. The Chairman [Col. Olcott] also upheld the views expressed by Mrs. Besant, recounting the obstacles he had to face from time to time in consequence of his hands being tied down, and fetters being placed upon his discretion. He pointed out how the existing rules made no provision for exigencies which required prompt action, and how their usefulness and efficiency were sacrificed to system and method, how in consequence of this rigidity in the constitution and absence of full faith in him who was the founder of the Society, and had steered its course almost single handed

through many storms and tempests till it made itself felt by all the world, so much labour and money were wasted that very year over the Judge affair, and how easily the matter could have been settled to the satisfaction of all, if he had held the power to decide in his own hands."

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## BOOK REVIEWS.

Mrs. Besant's new manual, "Man and his Bodies," will prove somewhat confusing to beginners who first read her former one, "The Seven Principles of Man." The same ground is covered, but the terminology is almost entirely altered, though in most cases with a distinct gain in clearness, and the point of view is changed from the scientific to the psychologic. Mrs. Besant lays great emphasis upon the need of bodily purity, and considers this an essential part of preparation for Yoga practice. "In the East health is insisted on as a condition of discipleship." "The worse kinds of food attract to the astral body entities of a mischievous kind belonging to the astral world." This phase of the question is dwelt upon. Pages 21 and 45 almost repeat the same description of what appears to have been the result of being "endowed with astral vision." If such visions be the effect of eating pure food the reader will be apt to resort to the cheapest restaurants for his future diet. Jesus' teaching "not that which goeth into the man, but that which cometh out of the man, defileth the man," stands in sharp contrast with the caste observances here recommended. The book contains some very clear expositions of the processes involved in the upbuilding of the mind-body, and in the exercise of its functions. There seems to be the tendency throughout the book towards a desire to separate men from their ordinary conditions of life, and we must confess that this appears to us to be more in the nature of setting up the attachment by opposites, than the old fashioned western way of overcoming the world by submission and renunciation. There are