

Friday Fragments.

Is it not a dreary outlook for the Theosophist to contemplate a perpetual series of incarnations? It would be, but as soon as a man realizes the possibility he makes haste to escape from the cycle of necessity and enter into the enjoyment of a higher existence.

"I have no memory of past lives." That is, you have no consciousness of past lives. But neither have you any consciousness of future life. You may have a hope, faith or belief in it, but no direct knowledge. This faith is founded on the experience that as you have been living for some time you will continue to live. But this argument to be effective must be retrospective as well as prospective. If there be continuity of life in the future there must have been in the past.

BUDDHISTS claim that their Lord was the Christ of God sent to them 2300 years ago, and they expect to be justified by faith in Him. Does God mock His children?

GIVE the devil his due. Our hospitals, which are the boast of Christianity, are nowhere advocated in the Bible, but are really derived from the Saracens. Kindness to animals is not a feature of Christian teaching, not a line in the New Testament referring to it, but it is one of the basic teachings of Buddhism from which we borrow it.

THE Brahmins, Buddhists, Parsees and Mahometans, as well as the older Egyptians and others, all have their own Bibles which they hold in the same estimation as Christians do 'heirs, believing them to contain the Word of God. Those to try to overturn their faith in their scriptures are naturally regarded by them just as Christians regard those who discredit the Bible—as infidels, and he then who know not God. Put yourself in their place.

DR. HENSOLDT, in the Arena for August, contributes most valuably to theosophical literature. He makes one or two errors in speaking of the Theosophical Society and its officers, but they are due to avidya. Speaking of the Masters he is under the impression that theosophists believe them to be highly cultivated Thibetans. H. P. B. said

they were of all nations, mentioning Russia, Greece, Hungary, Italy and England as the European sources of several, while many others are Hindus, the two Adepts who are said to be directly interested in the Society being both of this nationality. Dr. Hensoldt's report of Coomra Sami's teaching is most impressive and in parts very beautiful. He and the "brethren in Thibet" of whom he speaks are travelling one Path.

Mr. Wright's Visit.

The ordinary work of the Toronto Society was almost suspended during Mr. Wright's visit. He delivered seven free public lectures as follow: August 12th "The Theosophical Society," 14th "Reincarnation," 15th "Occultism," 16th "Dreams," 17th "H. P. B.," 19th "Concentration," 26th "The Adepts." The first two of these lectures were given in No. 365, and the others in Broadway Hall where the attendance averaged 300. The daily papers gave good reports and all of a friendly character, except the "Evening Star's," which afforded Mr. Wright an illustration next evening of the fact that news reports were not always to be relied upon. When the Star's proprietors understand what theosophy is, the cursing may be changed to blessing. Meanwhile they must be allowed to play with their straw man.

On the 21st, 22nd, 23rd and 24th Mr. Wright conducted a class in No. 365 which was attended by about eighty persons who received a very clear and comprehensive outline of the philosophy of The Secret Doctrine. His remarks on Occult Schools were of special value, removing many misconceptions. On Saturday the 25th he met a number of persons who felt disposed to join the Society but had not fully decided, and several determined to ally themselves openly with the movement.

Besides the classes and lectures Mr. Wright spent much time in private interviews and conversations, and it is generally felt that his presence has consolidated the efforts of the local Society in a marked degree.

On the 28th he left for Bar Harbor, Maine.

* The Toronto Evening Star recently published a tale by J. H. Connelly, one of New York's leading theosophists. Mr. Connelly's fiction is highly original and several of his novels have had great popularity.