

OUR FOREIGN FRIENDS.

The Irish Theosophist has an exceptionally fine issue for December. Jasper Niemand's "Letters" abound in valuable information, "The Lodge has but one insurmountable barrier, hypocrisy; one crime, ingratitude; one felony, self-abuse." The extracts from Mr. Judge's letters under the caption "The World Knoweth Us Not," will be the chief study of earnest readers. We should be glad to reproduce the series but the following sentences may suggest the propriety of each student subscribing to the "Irish Theosophist."

"Too much, too much, trying to force harmony. Harmony comes from a balancing of diversities, and discord from any effort to make harmony by force"

"Think of these points: (a) Criticism should be abandoned . . . Cooperation is better than criticism.

(b) Calmness is now a thing to be had, to be preserved. No irritation should be let dwell inside. . . . (c) Solidarity

(d) Acceptation of others." "An occultist is never fixed on any mortal particular plan. So do not fix your mind as yet on a plan. Wait. All things come to him who waits in the right way. Make yourself in every way as good an instrument for any sort of work as you can. . . . The more wise one is the better he can help his fellows. . . . Never growl at anything you have to do. . . . It is a contest of smiles if we really know our business. . . . Never be afraid, never be sorry, and cut all doubts with the sword of knowledge."

The December Vahan displays increasing brilliancy. It will interest the philologist who anonymously returned the last three LAMPS with notes, to know that his emendation of "ch'el" for chela is not so far out, as the English "brat" is its nearest equivalent. "Unless ye become as little children." And the Vahan remarks that "it would seem that disciples are usually called brats for the same reason that our grand old Lion of the Punjab applied to her immediate followers the expressive Yankee term "flap doodles." The frequent warning to students is repeated against astral and psychic practices which only furnish "an additional cause for perplexity and bewilderment." Learn to control the forces already at your disposal before arousing others. Only to some are they an aid. to most they are

a hindrance. Some light is thrown on "the remission of sins." It would seem that the disciples were empowered to remit sins by imparting such knowledge to those who merited it, as would enable them to overcome temptation and strengthen themselves. But it is a matter of self-effort.

"The Astrological Magazine" devotes much space to prominent theosophists. The secondary direction of the moon to the conjunction of Saturn about the time of Mrs. Besant's visit to Toronto in 1893 with Prof. Chakravarti is stated to have first indicated the unfortunate influences under which she has since been laboring. The horoscope of Mr. Judge is, given, calculated from 5.07 a.m., 13th April, 1851, at Dublin. His present directions are said to be extremely unfavorable, with possible danger to life.

"Transactions of the Scottish Lodge," Part 17, has a fine article on "Occultism and Practical Affairs," though the suggestion of not being as other men are flavors it. The neglect of rules is declared to be the cause of all the troubles recently brought upon theosophists. Occult experiences are to be kept inviolably sacred. Whoever first boasted of having received inspired communications is responsible for subsequent events. Stress is laid on the value of prayer, esoterically considered, and of the Hermetic teaching of the force of concentrated will. "The Evolution of a Planet" is more elementary, and shall we say more materialistic, than we have been accustomed to from Edinburgh. The short paper on the Hermetic method of gaining knowledge and power sums it up in one word—meditation—Raja Yoga—with due warnings to those who think themselves uninitiated when they are only practising autohypnosis. "Students who are getting clairvoyant visions and the like must be able absolutely to inhibit these visions before they can make one step of progress." "Inhibit" is no' too professional a word, we trust, to be thoroughly understood.

The Theosophic Gleaner, from Bombay, India, has an issue above the average. The short article on "Concentration" is notable. There is an error as to the authorship of "Letters that have helped me" in the "Notes and News," where it is attributed to the editor.

"Lucifer" has not come to hand this month so we are unable to note its contents.