

OUR FELLOW CRANKS.

The Social Problems Association has called a meeting to consider the re-establishment of the Sunday afternoon addresses during the winter.

The Secular Society held its annual convention in Toronto on the 8th Sept. The President advocated a more aggressive attitude toward the churches. The churches have not taken it seriously, and there is a proverb about throwing away dirty water which is not inapplicable.

The Salvation Army, which represents perhaps the most active branch of the church militant, awaits the arrival of General Booth. His visit to Canada is likely to be very popular, and few will refuse sympathy to this messenger to the highways and byways who would compel the wayfarers to come to the feast. When the Lord of that Kingdom cometh Gen. Booth's "inasmuchness" will surely shine goldenly.

The Socialist League.

The Socialist League of Canada adjourned its meetings at the President's residence, 64 Close avenue, Parkdale, over the Industrial Fair time, but will resume at the same place on Tuesday evening, 18th inst. Members will please note the date.

Vice-President Miss Simpson has gone to Calgary, N. W. T., to live. She will carry the light into the new country.

The Single Taxers.

Richmond Hall was well filled on the 15th inst., when the Rev. Chas. H. Shortt took the chair and opened the annual conference on Tax Reform. The afternoon was devoted to a discussion on "Farmers and the Single Tax" and "The Moral Aspect of the Land Question," in which Rev. S. S. Craig, Oakville; Prof. William Clark, Trinity College, Toronto; Dr. T. M. Crows, Buffalo and B. Douglas, of Wroxeter, took part.

In the evening, papers were read by S. T. Wood on "Law Taxation," "The Theory in Black and White," by J. W. Bengough, and "Local Option in Taxation," by George J. Bryan, at the close of which a Legislative Committee was formed.

"Hands Across the Sea."

Mr. Oliver Firth, President of the Bradford Lodge, writes from Haw-

thorne House, Baildon, near Shipley, Yorkshire, England, with the object of promoting communication between Branches in different parts of the world. The idea is to form "linked battalions" among the societies.

No Christian Chinaman.

A correspondent of the St James Gazette has no hesitation whatever in saying that there is not a solitary Chinese convert and, moreover, that there never has been a real convert. No genuine Chinese has ever really embraced Christianity; but many have appeared to do so for purposes of their own. We can confirm this correspondent's declaration by saying that the same opinion was expressed by the well known Chinese missionary the Rev. James Gilmour after a sojourn of twenty years in Manchuria.

Canon Isaac Taylor gives similar testimony concerning India, and if Christians will consider their own opinion of fellow-Christians who turn heathen, and reflect that upon the follower of any creed leaving the faith of his fathers he becomes a heathen in the sight of his friends, they will not be surprised. Carry your light to those who sit in darkness, but do not try to extinguish the light of others.

Theology vs. Christianity.

The charge brought by the Rev. Mr. Seiler recently in the Globe against Madam Blavatsky is one which has that half truth of foundation which as Tennyson put it is ever the blackest of lies. Her position has been repeatedly defined, but a paragraph from her preface to "Isis Unveiled," Vol. II, is as clear an exposition of her views as she has written:

"An analysis of religious beliefs in general, this volume is in particular directed against Theological Christianity, the chief opponent of free thought. It contains not one word against the pure teachings of Jesus, but unsparingly denounces their debasement into pernicious ecclesiastical systems, that are ruinous to man's faith in his immortality and his God, and subversive of all moral restraint."

The Report of the European Convention just to hand announces the publication of H. P. B.'s fugitive articles in a collected form under the title of "A Modern Panarion." The third volume of The Secret Doctrine is also in preparation for the press.