

NOTES ON THE MAGAZINES.

Lucifer is above the recent average. Mr. Mead begins one of his scholarly monographs on "Orpheus." Mr. Bertram Keightley makes clear the fact that the T. S. is not intended to be a Universal Brotherhood. He states that since the extinction of the last seat of the Mysteries at Arles, in A.D. 400, the Great Brotherhood had been quite forgotten in the West until the foundation of the T. S. in 1875, but this assertion is somewhat too sweeping. "The Purpose of the T. S." is to rebuild the ancient road of the Lesser Mysteries and to be an outer court of the Great Lodge. The Editor contributes several articles in various moods but all intended to be timely. "The man who shrinks from enforcing good order, if need be, should not take the position of head of a household, but should embrace a solitary life where no such responsibilities accrue." The "if need be" may save this interesting proposition from absurdity, though just how is not clear, but in the name of common sense who is going to tell us whether we can keep order till we have a try at it? Are we to embrace "a solitary life" when we fail in the attempt; or should we turn the reins over to the better half even when we feel that we know better than she who has proved too many for us; or should we insist upon making life one long exhilarating wrangle until pranic exhaustion closes the fray? Or is Krishna's not a better method, who sees danger in the duty of another, and safety only in attending to one's own duty? The vernacular version of this regarding "them that keep themselves to themselves" seems to be a practical recognition of the best means of avoiding friction and consequently getting work done, but all parties to the contract must observe the rule in our modern relations. In the reports of "Activities" the writer must protest, from his own personal knowledge, against the misstatements printed regarding Mr. George Wright's letter from a Master. Everyone was informed of his repudiation of it; I am not yet aware, however, that Mr. Wright knows how the letter came in his desk.

The Metaphysical Magazine for July is of much interest, "The Message of India," by Mr. Chas. Johnston; Dr. Hotchkiss' study of Du Maurier's Sven-

gali; and Dr. Hartmann's "True Occultist," being likely to attract most attention. One cannot help thinking that the general public, unacquainted with metaphysical terms, are likely to consider most of these articles very dreary and nebulous. The public want facts, and they like to hear about a man killing a goat by a scowl (page 8), but people want to know how to scowl at a goat for themselves. We need an R. A. Proctor, a Grant Allen, a Samuel Laing, to write these things down to the understanding of the crowd; they will arrive, too, with a little patience.

The Irish Theosophist maintains its reputation for forceful and explicit writing. The paraphrase of Paul's celebrated chapter on Love is a good example of what is to be done in this direction. We hope it is true that the Gospels are being rendered in a similar vein.

The Northern Theosophist, English, and *Atma's Messenger*, New English, seem to go together naturally. Mr. Bulmer seems to possess the most inexhaustible fund of commonsense in the general range of theosophical editorialism, and if Mr. Wadham's product be not equal to his model we can at least recognize the ideal. The *Northern* furnishes capital papers to be read at public meetings.

H. P. B's Convention Addresses still form the staple of *New England Notes*; the original matter is decidedly spicy.

Mercury reappears after a lapse with its charming children's features. The next number is promised for August.

The Pacific Theosophist is even more vigorous than usual, and unites with our Boston contemporary in a demand for the whole truth in regard to recent disturbances. Let the dead bury their own dead is fit counsel for the occasion.

The Theosophical Forum in its new garb promises to be one of the most valuable vehicles of instruction in connection with the movement. If the high standard of these initial numbers be maintained it will be an advantage on this account alone to belong to the T. S. in America. The *Oriental Paper* sustains its high level with translations of great beauty, and comments thereon, from the Taittiriya Upanishad and the Vayu Purana.

Scottish Lodge Transactions "stands