

NOTES ON THE MAGAZINES.

"Mercury's" seventh number is appropriately good. "The Energetic Ego" and "What the Symbols Say" are fit and proper items for that Theosophical child's reading book we hope to see some day. We who were brought up on Kingsley's "Madam How and Lady Why," and such sterling stuff find here the missing links of law and life whose absence then subdued enthusiasm and gave Art a chance to rob Nature.

"The Path" continues H.P.B.'s Letters. It appears the English Freemasons bestowed a diploma and decoration up on her in 1877. "Testimony as to Mahatmas" might be fuller if the injunction "See thou tell no man" were not so binding. "Conversations on Occultism" describes Black Magicians and their methods. Mr. Wright points the moral "Do not desire to tell people how much you know or how wise you are, but rather instruct them so that they also may acquire the knowledge and the wisdom for themselves." Mr. Fullerton breaks a butterfly in "Projected Hari-Kari," the last paragraph of which is almost sardonic.

"Scribner's Magazine" recently had a tale illustrating the alleged existence of a metal named Osiris—why not orichalcum?—whose value depended on its opacity to the force of gravity, all objects losing their weight on having a sheet of the metal interposed between them and the earth. In this way the Pyramids and other great-stoned structures were easily erected, says the romancer. But what if it be true? February Scribner has an interesting article on "Giants and Giantism" in which overgrowth is described as a disease—acromegaly—due to a degeneration of the pituitary body, a gland which Dr. Dana believes to be "an organ which separates from the blood some substance that has an important use in the economy."

"The Irish Theosophist" has Jasper Niemand's third "Letter." "Heed now the danger of this spiritual current to those amongst you whose thought-forms, whether of creed or plan, or what not else, are fixed. . . . Reaction awakens the pictures of erroneous images to fresh life, and casts their vivid images anew upon the brain: bewildering results." Mr. Judge is positive about H. P. B.'s teaching on the closing of the cycle in 1897. The door to the

Lodge will shut—religious effort will go on as usual—"but at the striking of the hour the door will shut, and not all your pleadings and cryings will open it to you."

"The Vahan" for January is a jousting tournament. "Lucifer" also blows the herald's trumpet. Dr. Hartmann considers the disturbance an immense joke—which it is, only the English are weak of perception. Mr. Green sweeps the arena with H. P. B.'s letters to the American conventions of 1888 and 1889. Dr. Coryn's fine article on "The Heaven-world," and Basil Crump's equally excellent one on "Theosophy and Crime" are concluded. James Nissim has a most interesting paper on "The Will and Reincarnation," dealing with the question of whether we must go to heaven or not.

"Book Notes" announces the publication of "The Mahatma; a story of Modern Theosophy," at 6s, and "The Dream of Ravan" at 2s.

"The Theosophic Gleaner" (Bombay) begins an article on "How to Begin the Study of Theosophy," and says: "Politically the value of Theosophy is in the scientific and true basis it furnishes for the good government of countries and nations, without resorting to forcible and violent means as we now-a-days find to be the case in the west."

"The Journal of the Maha Bodhi Society" supplies just that information regarding Buddhism which we heartily covet respecting the other great religions. "What is Buddhism?" in the December number, the translations of Buddhist scriptures, etc., and the sketch of "Buddhism in Ceylon" and criticism of Sir Monier Williams' misleading lectures on Hinduism and Buddhism are exceedingly instructive, and we hope to reprint the summary of "Buddha's Teachings" next month from the January number.

THE CANADIAN BRANCHES.

Kshanti T. S. President, Messey W. Graves, Secretary, William H. Berridge, 212 View St., Victoria, B. C.

Mount Royal T. S. President, Louis Trudeau; Secretary, Dr. James H. Fulton, 2444 St. Catharine St., Montreal, P. Q.

Toronto T. S. President, Samuel L. Beckett, Secretary A. E. S. Smythe, Medical Council Building, Toronto.