

grave. Hope might proclaim that "before all life is death, and after death is life." He did not know as Whitman knew that he was "the leavings of many deaths," and that he had died five thousand times before. Dr. Hughes spoke interestingly of the broadening of opinion in Toronto in the last quarter of a century. He had been himself denounced as a dangerous person in his boyhood because he read Dickens. He denied that Ingersoll was an infidel, and quoted Whitman's assertion that, "A mouse is miracle enough to stagger sextillions of infidels." He had brought many lecturers to Toronto, and a president of the University had warned the public not to attend a lecture by Julia Ward Howe because she was a Unitarian. He had been denounced for reading "Tom" Paine. He had always called him Thomas, and his works were now sold in the Methodist Book Room. An infidel was an impossibility, he declared.



DR. SYMTHE also spoke on some phases of Whitman's teaching. In an early edition of "By Blue Ontario's Shore," Whitman had the line, "As a wheel turns on its axle, so I find my chants turning finally on the war." Elsewhere Whitman says of "Leaves of Grass," "The entire work is finally to be considered as the first characteristic literary result of the war." Whitman's devotion in the hospitals to the sick and wounded, and his recognition of the cosmic forces that were at work in such upheavals were dwelt upon. The war taught what one's self and union meant. It proved comradeship and democracy. It tested death and immortality. This side of Whitman had not been understood in Toronto, where the police had actually raided the book-sellers who offered "Leaves of Grass" for sale, and the late public librarian refused to admit the book to his shelves. The speaker hesitated to say how highly placed Walt Whitman was by some of those who understood him, lest some susceptibilities might be jarred. He referred to the passage in Binns' preface where he says, "It is as a man that I see and have sought to describe Whitman. But as a man of special and exceptional character, a new type of mystic or seer. And the conviction that he belongs to the order of initiates has dragged me on to confessedly difficult ground." Mr. Smythe suggested that if they regarded men as incarnations of the Supreme Spirit in lowly or in higher degree they might be able to regard Whitman as one who had manifested, whether reflecting or trans-