

not far from north-east. A more important celestial event still will be the planetary conjunction on the 3rd of December. At least seven of the "planets," are then grouped in the sign Sagittarius. From November, till next April people may look for the effects of the closing of the 5,000 year cycle of which so much has been said for ten years past

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It does not seem to be generally realized how many psychics of every degree of trustworthiness and unreliability are to be found all over the country. The theory that the output is confined to one locality is quite unfounded. The S.P.R. has staked what reputation it has left or acquired on the statement that eight out of ten people are psychic. At least fifty per cent. of these are as good as other people, so that the sweeping condemnation of those who are afflicted with premature evolution is scarcely just. At the same time, we take our stand on the principle that the psychic has no more right to inflict his visions on his friends than a poet has to read his spring poems when he gets a man behind a shut door. I know at least a score of fair to middling psychics myself, but I would not buy a barrel of apples on the advice of any of them without examining the bottom of the barrel.

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WOMEN are often taxed with being unable to keep a secret. Has it ever occurred to you what a valuable factor this has been in bringing to light the hidden things of darkness? One of the reformers of the last century who hoped to regenerate society on semi-occult lines by establishing a secret organization, pays them a high compliment. C. W. Heckethorn quotes from a letter on the subject in his *Secret Societies*, I. p. 311: "We cannot improve the world without improving the women. . . . But how shall we get hold of them. . . . They will be our great apostles. . . . But I am doubtful whether the association will be durable—women are fickle and impatient. Nothing will please them but hurrying from degree

to degree . . . which will so soon lose their novelty and influence. To rest seriously in one rank, and to be silent when they have found out that the whole is a cheat, is a work of which they are incapable."

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REV. J. H. HYSLOP, Prof. James, of Harvard, Rev. Minot J. Savage and Dr. Richard Hodgson have all committed themselves to an acceptance of the genuineness of the psychic phenomena of which Mrs. Leonora E. Piper has been the medium. Dr. Hodgson has become quite enthusiastic, and has recanted the materialism under the influence of which he denounced Madam Blavatsky. Of course, he has not recanted his conclusion on that subject. That would be unscientific. He now declares Mrs. Piper to be the "most remarkable woman who has appeared for centuries," and expects to publish within two years "a new revelation, a new faith." I sincerely hope to live for two years more if it is only to see how near he comes to the Secret Doctrine. The really and truly saved of all sects will avoid the new revelation, as usual, we can inform Dr. Hodgson now, and most of the others don't care whether they are saved or not. And he must not expect too much of the few cranks with bulging sympathies who read everything that comes along.

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THERE is a "new occultism" coming into vogue that appears to be the product of the various mental science systems, which, like the Second Race and the theosophical movement, propagate themselves by "budding and expansion." The journals devoted to these cults are legion. The best of them, perhaps, is Thomas J. Shelton's *Christian*. Most of them, however, are distinguished by what looks like nothing but a glorification of egotism, and the editors seem to try to rival each other in the number of times their own names can be mentioned. Here is an extract from one written by a young man who has been brought up to better things: "I will exalt myself. I will be