

Scripture Class Notes.

Romans IV, VIII.

Abraham was justified, iv. 2. Compare the word in Matt., xi. 19; Luke, vii. 29; xvi. 15; xviii. 14; Rev. xxii. 11. We speak of the end justifying the means. Compare iv. 5 with Bhagavad Gita, ch. ix. "Even if the man of most evil ways worship me with exclusive devotion, he is to be considered righteous (or justified), for he hath judged aright." All effort is relative, but the positive or negative attitude of the man is of more importance than his work. In iv. 17 we have the philosophy of the cosmic consciousness, God calleth the things that are not as though they were. On the plane of the absolute everything is, past, present and future, and the quickening of the dead is the manifesting of these noumenal things. It is in God we are to believe, not Jesus, iv. 24. Abraham had this belief—really faith, and wavered not through lack of faith, v. 20. Having exercised faith, Karmic law brings tribulation and v. 3, 4, tribulation brings endurance, endurance brings proof, proof brings hope, and that hope putteth not to shame. This is the progress of the occultist to the higher life and the possession of the gift, the dorea, which Paul recognises as the attribute of that life. Compare the passages in which the term occurs, John iv. 10, Acts ii. 38; viii. 20; x. 45; xi. 17; Rom. v. 15; v. 17; 2 Cor. ix. 15; Eph. iii. 7; iv. 7; Heb. vi. 4. The true sense of the mystical resurrection is indicated in vi. 3, 4. We are buried in Christ in the baptism. Your life is hid with Christ in God, Col. iii. 3, and we must enter the Christ state to assume that life. Faithfulness to any form of belief, any fashion, type or revelation of the truth, in whatever religion, will lead to the universal Christ. Compare iv. 5 and vi. 17, 18. The distinction between crime and sin, not recognized or confused by society is radical on the plane of the higher life. Sin is separation from the divine. Crime is the non-observance of human regulations. Crime may or may not be sin, and many of the worst sins are not recognized as crimes. When Paul speaks of the law he means divine law which is often in antagonism with human law. In viii. 6, the life of the world is contrasted with the life of the cosmos, and we are told in verse 8 that they that are in the flesh cannot please God. Those who will recognize nothing but the

flesh should note this with I Cor. xv. 50. The definition of a Son of God viii. 14 is notable, and the expectation of the creation, verse 19, waits for the appearance of these perfected men who have the sanctification of the planet in charge, and who are we ourselves when we recognize our mission, the redemption of our bodies, the psychic bodies of I Cor. xv. 44. To them that love God all things work together for good, viii. 28. and none can separate us from that love except ourselves as Paul declares in verses 35-39.

Sparks.

If Christ came to Toronto!

Inasmuch as ye did it not to the least of these!

The Christian Commonwealth offers \$5,000 for a Mahatma. Thirty pieces of silver sufficed once.

Everyone asks for proofs of reincarnation. Can anyone provide any proofs against? The onus of proof is on the disbelievers, since the majority of people accept it.

A lad at the door of No. 365 called to another, "Don't go in there; they'll turn you into a pig." This probably represents the parental idea of reincarnation, but may there not be an echo of the Greeks, Ulysses and Circe?

Theosophy is accused of introducing too many big words. But the latest scientific terms are not very familiar. A friend spoke the other evening of "cosmetic consciousness," and not with reference to blushing either.

The Local Branch.

The regular programme of meetings was resumed on the 29th when Dr. L. Pierre of Minneapolis, was present and addressed the branch, afterwards answering questions. His remarks tended to lead to the practical application of the philosophy Mr. Wright had been expounding for the previous fortnight. In spite of the extreme severity of the weather on Sunday evening, 2nd Sept., a number were present to hear Mr. Beckett's able paper on "Imagination." The Forum for September has been distributed. The month to come is well provided for as may be seen on another page.