

THE LAMP,

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EDITORIAL NOTES.

Anyone with a copy of *The Path* for July, 1888, may get a dollar for it by sending to THE LAMP office.

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MR. E. T. HARGROVE writes from New York in anticipation of his visit to Toronto. He expects to go to California, and his programme is now being arranged. Should he decide to go West before coming North his visit would be delayed, but he will probably come to Toronto *en route*. The earliest possible announcements will be made.

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SPEAKING Huronically, a Port Huron paper says that "Mrs. Besant is vigorously scolding the theosophists. She should preserve a Karma aspect." This cockney pun is neither religious, philosophic nor scientific, and does not therefore come within the scope of theosophic enquiry, though of course we recognise the author as a man and a brother, and extend him our sympathies.

THE Lily Dale spiritualists, have been attracting a good deal of attention this year and there seems to be no doubt that a large amount of fraudulent phenomena has been unveiled. As long as there is a demand for phenomena and people are willing to pay to see it, so long will there be unscrupulous people ready to supply the demand and accept the payment. But this does not prove the non-existence of phenomena. The *Toronto Evening News*, which we credited with more intelligence, grows almost hysterical in its denials of the existence of any genuine psychic marvels. Will the *Evening News* be sensible enough to read Prof. Crooke's "Researches into Phenomena called Spiritual," or Prof. Olive Lodge's recent utterances, or the account of Prof. Lombroso's investigations with a medium in Italy, or any of the other scientific test-condition accounts with which intelligent people are usually familiar? The argument of the *News* and similar debaters simply amounts to the contention that because thunder and lightning are imitated on the stage with rolling cannonballs and powdered resin, therefore all accounts of a genuine thunderstorm are preposterous and false. The apparent determination on the part of professedly religious people to place as wide a gap as may be—a hopelessly unbridgeable one if possible—between the ordinary states of consciousness and existence and any other, hypothetical or real, is simply the result of the innate materialism of thought, religious or otherwise, prevailing under so-called Christian teaching. Theosophy has no sympathy with phenomena-hunting, and least of all with the necromantic practices of the *seance* room, but there is a wide distinction between condemnation and denial. Denial is absurd to those who are convinced by genuine experiences; condemnation equally so, that is not prepared with convincing scientific reasons and explanations. In supplying this middle ground, theosophy appeals to the intelligent and the thoughtful.

The meetings at 136 Carlow Avenue, on Tuesday evenings at 8 o'clock, continue to be well attended and are of great interest to those who are seeking elementary information on Theosophy.