

Our Fellow Cranks.

Dr. Ryder's Lecture.

Dr. Ryder's lecture on the Origin and Destiny of Man on the 26th July was an admirable instance of the perfect harmony between all advanced thought and research on independent lines, and the teaching of the Secret Doctrine. His statement of the persistent organic life of the cell, and the assimilation of the vegetable cell into the animal organism is most interesting, though the direct derivation of the blood corpuscles from these cells is not quite clear. His interpretation of occult symbolism on the physical plane appears to be entirely correct, but we must remember the existence of a sevenfold key to every symbol. The Tree of Life is a case in point, and in dealing with the idea of the thread of Life, he appeared to overlook the obvious connection of the Grecian myth of the three fates, Clotho, Lachesis and Atropos spinning and cutting off that thread. The thread soul, or sutoatma of the Hindus embodies the same conception. Dr. Ryder should read Paracelsus before stating that salt, sulphur and mercury were understood by the ancients to be the literal constituents of man. Mind, soul and spirit correspond fairly enough with the alchemical trinity. Knowledge is power, as was stated, and we cannot know what we do not study, neither have we a right to dogmatise outside our own domain. Others may know in their own departments what we have not investigated. Much ridicule was at one time directed against passages in the Bhagavad Gita, such as this: "Whosoever shall meditate . . . with mind undeviating, united to devotion, and by the power of meditation concentrated at the hour of death, with his vital powers placed between the eyebrows, attains to the Supreme Divine Spirit." Yet Dr. Ryder, a modern medical man, now tells us that the organ of Judgment is situated between the brows, and upon its cultivation depends man's mental development.

ORTHODOXY would be astonished if it only knew the extent to which spiritualism is followed in Toronto. Seances are held continually of all kinds from the simplest clairvoyance through all the various phenomenal grades up to the so-called materialisations.

The Socialist League.

At a recent business meeting of the Socialist League of Canada the following officers were unanimously elected: President, W. J. Watson; Vice-President, Miss M. Simpson; Secretary, Miss M. E. Youmans; Librarian, Miss E. Adams; Treasurer, C. Armstrong; Councillors, Dr. Lelia A. Davis, Phillips Thompson and Wm. Scott.

In accepting the chief office, the President said he did so only because he understood that the members were banded together as a nucleus of the brotherhood of man, that this League believed in the Socialism of love, not the Socialism of hate, and that, while holding fast to the principle underlying their organization, they would endeavor to minimize the points of difference between all the varied classes of the community.

The members unanimously agreed and since then the League has been holding study meetings at the President's residence, 64 Close Avenue, city, every Tuesday night. Every one interested is cordially invited. The work now being studied, after a review of current socialism for the week, is Sullivan's "Direct Registration by the Initiative and Referendum."

THE astrologers are all agreed in predicting the death of Her Majesty the Queen about October, 1895. This is confirmed by a Hindu prophecy of two hundred years ago which says: "A Mlechcha lady, ruling over the earth, will die in the year Manmatha, when the Sun enters Tula Rasi (Oct.-Nov., 1895). She will die accidentally. Her territories will then gain the name so that the Sun will never set upon them."

ARE there not vegetarians enough in Toronto to support a vegetarian restaurant? The usual idea of our housekeepers when a vegetarian develops in the family is to feed him on potatoes and cabbage. There should be some means of enabling a vegetarian to escape with his life, for man cannot live by potatoes and cabbage alone.

CREMATION grows in favor, 503 instances being reported from the States for 1893. The movement to build a crematory in Toronto is gathering force.