

# The LAMP

VOL. I.

TORONTO, JULY 15, 1895.

NO. 12.

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## DR. FRANZ HARTMANN.

One of the most influential and at the same time the most unobtrusive workers in the theosophical movement to-day is to be recognized in Dr. Franz Hartmann. One of the very earliest of Europeans to be enlisted in the work, he has ever since in the Western States, in India, in Austria and Germany, devoted himself with untiring zeal to the application of his talents to the cause of universal brotherhood. It is as a literary agent that Dr. Hartmann exerts his greatest influence, and in this field his labours are rapidly becoming monumental. Not to mention innumerable magazine articles and translations which continually pour from his pen, his books already form a considerable list.

In the presentment of the teachings of medieval mystics to modern readers he has been specially successful. His volume on "Paracelsus," giving the essence of the philosophy of the Bombast of Hohenheim is perhaps the most popular of his efforts in this direction, and has had a large circulation in America. This book has done much to establish the reputation of a much-maligned occultist.

His volume on "Jacob Boehme" and the "Life of Jehoshua" are of a similar style, as also a series of papers, not yet republished, contributed to *Lucifer*, on the "Foundations of Christian Mysticism"

based on the writings of Master Eckhartshausen. "Occult Science in Medicine" and "Buried Alive," gain value from the professional experience brought to bear on these subjects. "In the Pronaos of the Temple of Wisdom" is not so popular as his earlier and widely read introduction to theosophy, occultism and mystics — "Magic, White and Black." This was written, as he states in the preface to a

new edition, at a time when he "imagined that it was possible by means of intellectual efforts to bore a hole through the veil that covers the mystery of the spirit," and presents as clearly and popularly as any such effort could, the intellectual aspect of these great problems of life which can only be solved, as he indicates, by passing "through the slow process of becoming spiritual one's self."

The attitude of the intellectual seekers after the spiritual is well illustrated in what is one of the cleverest books in the range of modern

fiction — "The Talking Image of Urur." Dr. Hartmann's lighter vein here gets free play, and the humour that convulsed a recent assembly in tracing the evolution of the flat-heads of Australia into the block-heads of more recent days sparkles throughout. There is also the touch of that divine sense of beauty which gives his "Adventure Among the Rosicrucians" in even more marked degree the stamp of the grace and refinement of true power.



DR. FRANZ HARTMANN.