

THE FROSTED PANES.

One night came Winter noiselessly, and leaned
 Against my window pane.
 In the deep stillness of his heart convened
 The ghosts of all his slain.

Leaves and ephemera, and stars of earth,
 And fugitives of grass—
 White spirits loosed from bonds of mortal
 birth,
 He drew them on the glass.

—C. G. D. Roberts in Atlantic Monthly.

The intuition of the poet frequently outruns the investigations of the scientist, and the above stanzas illustrate this, as well as Mr. Bliss Carman's proposition, noted last month, that the Canadian school of poetry stands for the new-old philosophy. The Astral Light, the Akasa or Ether, the Book of Judgment, as it is variously termed, in which everything is recorded that ever existed, "convenes the ghosts" of all the past, and the proper conditions being afforded they reappear, materialized on the plane of physical existence. A correct understanding of the process by which these ancient forms are reproduced would afford a clue to the comprehension of many other phenomena closely akin, though apparently not related. The much disputed process of the precipitation of written script on blank paper is closely allied to the method by which nature precipitates her floral forms on appropriate surfaces. A Master, writing in "The Occult World" (page 144, 6th Amer. Ed.), says "When science will have learned more about the mystery of the lithophyl (or litho-biblion), and how the impress of leaves come originally to take place on stones, then I will be able to make you better understand the process." This connects the operations of fossilization with that of the frosted pane, and crystallisations, and even photography will be perceived to be all different applications of an important natural law by which nonmenal form under favorable conditions is manifested physically. The very growth of our bodies, the process of incarnation, is the crowning triumph on our plane of this work of embodying the hidden thought or word. The beautiful forms of the frozen window are limited by their conditions to the lower kingdoms, but it is of great interest to note the variations that occur in different localities, affected by floral and other environment, by latitude and longitude and so forth. The different kinds of stone in flag-pave-

ments exhibit different forms, the wood composing window-frames appears to have its influence, the floral contents of a greenhouse modify considerably the frost pictures, and other conditions give results which should be noted. Many observations suggest that aquatic and marine forms are as probably reproduced as those of terrestrial flora. If amateur photographers in different parts of the world would perpetuate for us the designs of their winter morning windows we might get some interesting evidence concerning lost continents and past ages. THE LAMP will be glad to receive communications on the subject.

LIFE TO LIFE AS DAY TO DAY.

If one believes in that inexpressibly vast and wonderful idea of reincarnation, the sadness of such a story as that of the woman who "Lived in New York" is intensified into a dozen tragedies. For through what ages of torment and toil and self-denial and pain must that tarnished soul struggle up into purity again! And how infinitely awful does each careless, reckless, downward step become, when one believes that it must be retraced, though ages be consumed in the retracing and whips of many things be woven for the scourging, and tears like fire fall, and griefs that to the unbelieving seem unjust and cruel are laid upon the suffering heart. That is the only explanation that gives me the sense of many a Bible verse, glibly rattled off in and out of sense and season by many a stupid tongue.—Lady Gay in Saturday Night, 12 Jan.

WOMEN SPEAKING IN CHURCH.

I have always felt astonished that respectable and reverent men should have so long allowed a hazy translation of certain expressions of St. Paul to pass as quite authoritative, and so influence in a very important direction the whole of human rules and conduct. The Apostle says, "It is a shame for women to speak in the church," and this has been enforced in its literal sense by a large body of ecclesiastics. Judge the surprise of a modern intelligent woman when in looking up the word rendered "speak," in Liddell and Scott's Greek-English Lexicon—of which no one will dispute the authority—she finds it translated "to chatter like monkeys, to twitter like birds!"—Mrs. Josephine Butler.