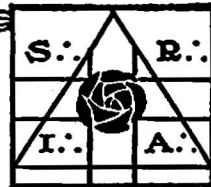


MERCURY



Published Semi-Monthly as the Official Messenger of
Metropolitan College, Societas Rosicruciana in America.

Vol. 5

April 5,



MCMXX

No. 7

Authorized Instruction in Rosicrucian Philosophy.

By Fr. K. X^o.

Number Zweite.

Rosicrucianism and Religion.

Agreement between Occult and Academic Science: Points of Contact; Development;
The Kabbalah, The Noble Eight Fold Path of Buddhism; Concentration.

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No Conflict Between Academic and Occult Science.

Between legitimate occult science and academic science there should be no conflict and only such controversy as may lead to closer examinations of the premises of both schools. Especially is this true in regard to Rosicrucian science, and in the preceding Instructions we have endeavored to cite the many instances where the teachings of the Brotherhood are confirmed by the findings and conclusions of academic science.

Rosicrucianism, the Egyptian Wisdom Teaching.

The Rosicrucian philosophy, while often termed the "Western Wisdom Religion," might be more accurately designated as the "Egyptian Wisdom Teaching." For it is distinctly the cultus of the Egyptian Mysteries in contradistinction to the Hindu school. Rosicrucianism, while defined in Instruction No. 1, as having for its subject Man, is in reality, a correlation between Science, Religion and Philosophy, and furnishes innumerable points of contact between all three. It thus offers a common ground of association for all earnest truth seekers, regardless of previous religious or philosophical and present scientific affiliations.

Rosicrucianism and Religion Identical in Purpose.

Rosicrucianism and religion are identical in purpose. Both seek closer knowledge of God. Religion seeks through faith. Rosicrucianism seeks through the demonstrable and revealed evidences of his power and activity, especially through the study and knowledge of God's image.—Man.

To the truth seeker, regardless of whatever religious associations he may have sustained, Rosicrucianism will give a broader outlook and concept of the revealed evidences of Deity in the natural world.

In the Rosicrucian teachings, the popular concepts of Father, Son and Holy Ghost are broadened into a reasonable comprehension of just who these exalted beings really are; their place, time and present status in evolution; their relationships to humanity, and their offices and responsibilities thereto.

Rosicrucian Concept of God.

God, as popularly conceived by orthodox religion is seen in the Rosicrucian teachings to be the Architect of our Solar System, not of the Universe, nor yet of the Cosmos, but merely an expression of a vastly greater Trinity. Everywhere in Rosicrucian Science the student finds the expression of the Trinity, Three in One and One expressed in Three.

Father, Son and Holy Ghost form the inseparable triad of the past evolutionary periods of our earth. The threefold Body, Three-fold Spirit and Three-fold Soul form the trinitarian composite known as Man. God, the Supreme Being, and finally the Absolute compose the Trinity of Deific Beings whom the Rosicrucian terms God. Thus God, as understood by the Rosicrucians, is not simply the Creator of our little Solar System, but the Absolute expressing in threefold manifestation, to which man conforms in obedience to

The Smaragdine Tablet.

the Hermetic Law, "as above, so below." This law, although found elsewhere in the Hermetic Writings on which Rosicrucianism is fundamentally based, is also found in amplified form in the Smaragdine Tablet or emerald table found in the tomb of Hermes, a cave near Hebron, discovered, according to Albertus Magnus, by Alexander the Great. The tablet bears thirteen sentences in Phoenician characters, as follows:

THE SMARAGDINE TABLET.

- 1 I speak not fictitious things, but what is true and most certain.
- 2 What is below is like that which is above, and what is above is like that which is below, to accomplish the miracles of one thing.
- 3 And as all things were produced by the mediation of one Being, so all things were produced from this one thing by adaptation.
- 4 Its Father is the Sun, its Mother is the Moon; the Wind carries it in its belly, its Nurse is the Earth.
- 5 It is the Cause of all Perfection throughout the whole world.
- 6 Its power is perfect if it be changed into earth.
- 7 Separate the earth from the Fire, the subtle from the gross, acting prudently and with judgment.

Sayings of Elbert Hubbard, No. 23.

"The man who leads in prayer seldom leads in anything else."

- 8 Ascend with the greatest sagacity from the earth to heaven, and then again descend to the earth, and unite together the powers of things superior and things inferior. Thus you will obtain the glory of the whole world, and all obscurity will fly far away from you.
- 9 This thing is the fortitude of all fortitude, because it overcomes all subtle things and penetrates every solid thing.
- 10 Thus were all things created.
- 11 Thence proceed wonderful adaptations which are produced in this way.
- 12 Therefore am I called Hermes Trismegistus, possessing the three parts of the philosophy of the whole world.
- 13 That which I had to say concerning the operation of the Sun, is completed.

An exegesis of this tablet belongs to a later volume in this series, dealing exclusively with the Hermetic teachings of the Rosicrucian Order, but the student will see from the lines given the close approximation with the esoteric teachings of all genuine world religions.

The Kabbalah.

Neither is Rosicrucianism a form of Kabbalism or the study of the Kabbalah, (Qabbalah, Cabala, etc.) exclusively as such. A study of the Kabbalah is included in its general inquiry into the esotericism of religious thought, as revealed by the study of Comparative Religion, but Kabbalism is not made an integral part of the Rosicrucian philosophy. Rosicrucianism originated among the sacerdotal castes of antiquity, and attained its fullest development in the person of "C.R.C.," of whom more will be said in the final instruction.

Since the Christian era however and until early in the present century, exoteric Rosicrucianism has been composed almost exclusively of monastic brethren, many of its Initiates having been Abbots, Bishops, and, it is believed on excellent historical evidence, one a Pope.

The study of the Kabbalah, while a part of the strict Rosicrucian curriculum, is however, excellent when taken in connection with a critical exegesis of Hermeticism, and this plan the modern Brotherhood in the Outer follows to a considerable extent.

The Kabbalah is not easy to sum up in outline. The word "Kabbalah" denotes first, "reception," then "received by tradition," and by the ancient Jews was applied to the whole of their religious doctrine with the exception of the Pentateuch, and included the Prophets, the Hagiographa and the oral traditions of the Mishnah.

Kabbalism treats of the nature of Deity, Cosmogony, the Divine Emanations or SEPHIROTH, creation of Angels and Man, their Destiny and Revealed Law. According to the Kabbalah, God is conceived as Boundless Being, above everything, and called En Soph. He is the space of the universe, but the universe is not his space.

The Non-existent Desires to Manifest.

In this state of boundlessness He cannot be described in words or comprehended by the intellect, and as such He was, in a certain sense, AYIN, the non-existent. (Zohar, iii. 283.) To make His existence manifest En Soph had to become active and creative. This involved intention, desire, thought and work, and as these conditions belong to the finite, En Soph had to become operative through ten Sephiroth or Intelligences emanating from him like rays.

The desire to become manifest, and consequently the desire for and idea of creation, was co-eternal with Deity, and the first emanation or manifestation of the primordial will is called the First Sephirah.

Order of the Sephiroth.

This First Sephirah, or substance which existed in Deity from eternity, contained nine other Intelligences or Sephiroth. These again therefore, emanated one from the other, second from the first, third from the second, continuing in this manner up to ten.

These Ten Sephiroth form among themselves a perfect Unity and represent different aspects of one and the same thing. They are:

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------|
| 1 The Crown, | Kether |
| 2 Wisdom, | Chokhmah |
| 3 Intelligence, | Binah |
| 4 Love, | Chesed |
| 5 Justice, | Geburah |
| 6 Beauty, | Tiphereth |
| 7 Firmness, | Netzach |
| 8 Splendor, | Hod |
| 9 Foundation, | Yesod |
| 10 Kingdom, | Malkuth |

Their evolution is thus explained;—

"When the Holy Aged, the concealed of all concealed assumed a form, he produced everything in the form of male and female, as things could not continue in any other form. Hence Wisdom, the second Sephirah and the beginning of development, when it proceeded from the Holy Aged (i.e., the First Sephirah) emanated in male and female, for Wisdom expanded, and Intelligence, the third Sephirah, proceeded from it, and thus were obtained male and female, viz. Wisdom the father and Intelligence the mother, from whose union the other pairs of Sephiroth successively emanated." (Zohar, iii. 290.) These two opposite potencies, the masculine Wisdom and the feminine Intelligence, Sephiroth Nos. 2 and 3, are joined together by the first potency, the Crown, or Sephirah No. 1; they yield the first triad of the Sephirotic decade, and constitute the divine head of the archetypal man.

Evolution of the Sephiroth.

From the junction of Sephiroth Nos. 2 and 3 emanated the masculine potency Love or Mercy (4) and the feminine potency Justice (5), and from the junction of the two latter emanated again the uniting potency Beauty (6). Beauty, the sixth Sephirah, constitutes the chest in the archetypal man and unites Love (4) and Justice (5), which constitute the divine arms, thus yielding the second triad of the Sephirotic decade. From this second conjunction emanated again the masculine potency Firmness (7) and the feminine potency Splendor (8), which constitute the divine legs of the archetypal man; and these sent forth Foundation (9), which is the genital organ and medium of union between them, thus yielding the third triad in the Sephirotic decade. Kingdom (10) which emanated from the ninth Sephirah, encircles all the other nine, inasmuch as it is the Schechinah, the divine halo, which encompasses the whole by its all-glorious presence."

Ezekiel's Vision.

These ten Sephiroth, termed the World of Emanations, are also called the Primordial, Archetypal or Heavenly Man, and it is this form that is said to have been seen by the Prophet Ezekiel in the mysterious chariot. (Ezek. i. 1-28.)

The Three Worlds.

- The three triads represent respectively the
- A Intellectual World,
 - B Moral or Sensuous World,
 - C Material World.

In the Sephirotic or archetypal man, the Sephiroth on the right side are masculine and represent Severity. Those on the left are feminine and represent Mercy. The four central Sephiroth represent the principle of Mildness.

Adam, the Microcosm.

From the heavenly Adam (i.e. the Sephiroth) was created the earthly Adam, the Microcosm.

This is the merest skeletal digest of the complex and involved philosophy of the Kabbalah, of which both the Sepher Yetzirah and the Sepher Dtzenloutha are treated historically and exoterically in the regular degrees of the First Grade in the Work of the Brotherhood in America.

Tetragrammaton.

Probably the feature of the entire Kabbalah that has made the greatest impression on both Jewish and later scholars is the Tetragrammaton, the Hebrew name of Deity; Yod, He Vau He expressed in four letters, IHVH. The true pronunciation is known to but few and there are at least twenty different mystical pronunciations extant. It is the "secret, sacred, unpronounceable name" to the devout Hebrew. It is capable of twelve transpositions which all convey the meaning of "to be" and these twelve transpositions are said to correlate with the signs of the Zodiac. They are; IHVH, IHHV, IVHH, HVHI, HVIH, HHIV, VHHI, VIHH, VHII, HIIH, HIIV, HHVI. There are also three other tetragrammatic names, AHHI (Existence, EHeieh) ADNI, (Adonai, Lord) and AGLA (Aglá, this last a notarikon of the sentence, AThH GBVR LOVLM ADNI, Ateh, Gebor Leolahm Adonai; "Thou art mighty forever, O Lord.")

Arcane societies have assumed to find in the Tetragrammaton the so-called "Lost Word," or "Creative Word." Its letters embody the human form,

I
H
V
H

interesting, but affords a deep insight into the esotericism of the ancient sacred writings and discovers the basis of many mediaeval and modern concepts regarding cosmogony, the Rosicrucian finds of more practical value in assistance toward living the definite life, without which true spiritual progress is impossible, the teachings of Buddha; not the Theosophical interpretations, but his original utterances.

What Buddha Enjoined.

First of all, in full agreement with the Charge given to every Neophyte in the Rosicrucian Order, Buddha taught that we must not believe a thing merely because it has been said, nor in traditions merely because they have been handed down from antiquity, nor rumors as such, nor writings by sages, merely because sages wrote them, nor in fancies that we may suspect to have been inspired, nor from inferences drawn from some haphazard assumption we may have made, nor because of what seems an analogical necessity; nor on the mere authority of our own teachers or masters. We should believe only when our own reason and consciousness corroborates the writing, doctrine or saying.

Meaning of the Term Buddha.

The word Buddha means the "Enlightened," or one who has attained the perfect wisdom. While Gautama Siddartha is known as the greatest, there have been many Buddhas. According to the old teaching, a Buddha is one who becomes so imbued with the desire and determination to be such, that he begins at once to live the life that results eventually in his return to earth in a later incarnation fitted to guide humanity in some cycle adapted for special spiritual revelation and manifestation.

How Buddhahood Is Attained.

Those who determine upon the attainment of Buddhahood strive not only throughout the life expression in which their determination is made, but also throughout all succeeding incarnations to subdue every passion, gain wisdom from experience and develop the higher faculties. Such an one thus grows wiser, nobler in character and stronger in virtue birth after birth, until he finally reaches the stage when he can become the "Perfected,"—Enlightened, All-wise, The Teacher.

Ignorance.

Buddhism teaches that *ignorance* causes most suffering because it makes us prize that which is not worth prizing, grieve for that which should not call forth grief, esteem as real the unreal and illusionary and thus waste our lives in the pursuit of unworthy purposes and objects.

What Is Most Valuable.

Correspondingly, that which is most valuable to humanity is to learn the secret of man's existence and destiny, and to be able to estimate life and its relations at their true value. Thus may we not only attain the greatest happiness but avoid causing all possible suffering to our fellow-men.

The Four Noble Truths.

Our ignorance may be dispelled by the knowledge of the "FOUR NOBLE TRUTHS." These are:—

- 1 "The miseries of evolutionary existence resulting in births and deaths, life after life.
- 2 The cause, productive of misery, which is the selfish desire, ever renewed, of satisfying one's self, without being able ever to secure that end.
- 3 The destruction of that desire, or the estranging of one's self from it.
- 4 The means of obtaining this destruction of desire.

The Noble Eight-Fold Path.

The conquest over self and desire is to be accomplished through the Noble Eight-fold Path, the eight parts of which are called "angas." They are:

- 1 Right Belief, (As to the Law of Causation, or Karma),
- 2 Right Thought,
- 3 Right Speech,
- 4 Right Action,
- 5 Right Means of Livelihood,
- 6 Right Exertion,
- 7 Right Remembrance and Self Discipline,
- 8 Right Concentration of Thought.

Salvation, Means Emancipation.

"The man who keeps these angas in mind and follows them will be free from sorrow and ultimately reach salvation, which in this case means emancipation."

Buddha's Summary.

Buddha summed up his whole doctrine in one gatha or verse,—

Sabba papassa akaranam
Kusalassa upasampada
Sachitta pariyo dapanam—
Etam Buddhanusasanam.

"To cease from all evil actions,
To generate all that is good,
To cleanse one's mind:
This is the constant advice of the
Buddhas."

Synonymous With Rosicrucian Teachings.

These teachings of the Buddha as just cited, are the clearest possible statement of the teachings of the Rosicrucian Brotherhood. Rosicrucianism teaches that the greatest value to humanity lies in the knowledge of the secret of man's existence and destiny; it seeks to shorten involuntary incarnations by knowledge; it teaches that this process can be affected only through Right Thought, Right Action, Right Feeling and Right Living, exactly in complete accord with the precepts of the Noble Eight Fold Path. And Rosicrucianism agrees absolutely with Buddha's own summary of his doctrine.

Buddhism and Rosicrucianism BOTH Teach Positivity.

Further than this, Buddhism and Rosicrucianism parallel each other in their admonitions to cultivate *POSITIVITY*, NOT *NEGATIVITY*. "To cease from sin" may be desirable, but it is passivity. But "to get virtue" is a *POSITIVE ACTION*, and Buddha taught that we should not merely be not evil, but that we should be *POSITIVELY good*."

The Five Observances.

Upon the Buddhist laity are enjoined the FIVE OBSERVANCES or universal precepts, which all faithful Buddhists repeat publicly at the Viharas.

- 1 I observe the precept to refrain from destroying the life of beings.
- 2 I observe the precept to refrain from stealing.
- 3 I observe the precept to refrain from unlawful sexual intercourse.
- 4 I observe the precept to refrain from falsehood.
- 5 I observe the precept to abstain from using intoxicants.

Karma Inescapable.

The close analogy between the Five Observances and the Ten Commandments of Mosaic Law is obvious. Rosicrucianism and Buddhism are again at one in their insistence that every man receives under the operations of unerring Karma, "exactly that reward or punishment which he has deserved, no more, no less. No good deed or bad deed, however trifling and however secretly committed, escapes the evenly balanced scales of Karma, which is a causation operating on the moral as well as on the physical and other planes. Buddhists say there is no miracle in human affairs; what a man sows, that must and will he reap."

Meditation.

Rosicrucianism teaches with Buddhism the value of meditation as the process by which one extinguishes passion and attains knowledge. Meditation has two broad general divisions:—

Samatha,

The attenuation of passion by leading the holy life and by continued effort to subdue the senses.

Vidarsama,

The attainment of supernormal wisdom by reflection: each of these divisions embraces twenty aspects.

Four Other Paths.

The practice of meditation and the precepts and observances, leads to four other paths:—

1 Sotapatti,

The beginning or entering into which follows after one's clear perception of the Four Noble Truths.

2 Sakardagami,

The path of one who has subjugated lust, hatred, and the delusion that he need only return once to this world.

3 Anagami,

The path of those who have so far conquered self that they need not return to this world.

4 Arhat,

The path of him who is free from the necessity of re-incarnation, and has capacitated himself to enjoy perfect wisdom, boundless pity for the ignorant and suffering, and measureless love for all beings.

Personal Transmutation.

With all these teachings, Rosicrucianism is in thorough accord, and regards the active prosecution of these developmental processes, moral and ethical, as actually producing PHYSICAL results as well, for it is impossible to raise the vibrational tone or status of the spiritual self without correspondingly raising the vibrational status of the physical body as well. This complete process the Rosicrucian terms personal TRANSMUTATION.

Another Point of Contact.

And even here, the close relationship or point of contact between Rosicrucianism and true Buddhism continues, for against the Rosicrucian concept of Cosmic Root Substance Buddhism places the doctrine, "All things are made of one essence (Swabhava) yet things are different according to the forms which they assume under different impressions."

Sakya Muni and Meditation.

Sakya Muni (Buddha) taught that Right Meditation leads to spiritual enlightenment, or the Buddha-like faculty that is inherent in every man, and Rosicrucianism asserts that to whoso is willing to "live the life," the strenuous striving for self-control of all physical and mental conditions that enthral mankind to materialism, will come spiritual enlightenment regardless of school.

Rosicrucianism Agrees With All Religious Fundamentals.

With the fundamentals of all world religions Rosicrucianism is in Unity. This does not mean that it endorses all the foibles of so-called "Churchianity." With the man-made doctrines of salvation, redemption, justification, etc., it has naught to do. There is a real salvation and redemption and they have been explained in the foregoing Instructions, but with the inventions of an inconstant theology that is obliged to change to meet the progressional development of the human mind and the advancement of science Rosicrucianism has no common ground.

Theological Salvation and Redemption Untenable.

Theological salvation is untenable, for no human soul could be eternally lost if it even desired to be. Salvation being untenable, redemption belongs to the same category. Humanity exists in and of the Being of its great Parent, the Absolute, and no part of the ALL can ever possibly be lost. All is in the ALL, and the ALL is in all.

There is a True Science of the Soul.

Yet with the Church, as she was before Occumenical Councils wrought havoc with human freedom of thought and before the personal ambitions of human leaders fettered her progress in her divine mission, the Brotherhood has much in common. *Rosicrucianism teaches that there is a true science of the soul just as there is a true science of the body, and there is a well defined method of guiding and correcting soul growth, just as there is a corresponding method of guiding and checking bodily growth.*

Rosicrucianism and the Sacraments.

In this process of soul growth, Rosicrucianism asserts the importance of the Seven Sacraments of Holy Church as definite channels through which spiritual power may enter into, nourish, sustain and develop the growing soul of the aspirant.

Thirty-three Sacraments.

This is true to such an extent, that not only is soul growth taught in the Degrees of the Exoteric and Esoteric side of the Order, but the benefit of the Sacramental System is also offered in the established Holy Orders of the purely religious side of the Brotherhood in the Outer as well. For the Rosicrucian System, recognizing the true value of Sacraments as external, outward visible manifestations of inward spiritual grace, has a well defined code of Thirty-three Sacraments, similar to those of the Greek Occult Church.

At the present time, although university chairs are endowed for the purpose of teaching it, there is no real Psychology.

Psychology a Misnomer.

The proof of this statement is seen in the meaning of the term itself. "Psychology" means "Soul knowledge or Soul Wisdom." So-called psychology deals with everything BUT the soul. It treats speculatively with the "Me," the "I," the Consciousness, the Senses, Reflexes, the Mentality, etc., but it lets the soul severely alone, and it is well that it does, for the time is not yet when the soul and its spiritual associations and relations has become a matter of authoritative text-book study. Spiritual things are to be discerned only in ONE way,—SPIRITUALLY, and to discern them means a long period of spiritual development.

Brotherhood Publishes No Formulas For Development.

While many books purport to offer unflinching methods for personal spiritual development, none have ever been authoritatively set forth by the Rosicrucian Brotherhood, for the simple reason that it would be impossible to do so. Every human being's development is a strictly personal problem and must be guided by as careful diagnosis as a physician would make for physical treatment. Failure to recognize this is why so many become mentally deranged in trying to follow general advices published in easily procured volumes.

Given Only in the Secret Work.

In the Secret Work of the Brotherhood as conducted in America, personal development is made an individual study. The work practice, and study of each aspirant is carefully mapped out and daily record charts of progress prepared and preserved. It is well known that in medical work what is one person's salvation may be another person's death and prescriptions are not transferable. So it is in spiritual development.

Aside from the general rules for right living thinking and acting, when it comes to specific developmental work, the temperament, mental characteristics, personal traits, weaknesses as well as strength, ambitions fulfilled or unfulfilled, must be carefully studied by a competent Teacher. No all-inclusive formulas for development can be given out. Each case must be individual.

Brotherhood Open To All.

The doors of the Brotherhood are open wide to all who knock, on the following basis of association, expressed in the form of definite affirmations:

The Affirmations.

We affirm:

- 1 The existence of One Infinite Intelligence, Omnific, Omniscient, and Omnipotent in its functions; from which we emanated as unconscious spirit substance and to which we return as Conscious, Individualized Entities.
- 2 The Incarnation of the Spirit in visible form or Matter, to be for the purpose of Experience.
- 3 That all Life is continuous, without Beginning and without Ending; Evolutional, in a constantly ascending scale of Progression.
- 4 That the Mortal may attain to the knowledge of the Spiritual while yet Incarnate.
- 5 The Truth of Re-incarnation as a factor in the Soul's Evolutionary Progress, necessary as many times as may be required for the Assimilation of the Requisite Experience.

In the personal guidance of the Order, directions are given for Concentration, Meditation, Contemplation, Prayer, Dietetics, Exercise, Rest, Vitality, Healing and finally Spiritual Insight and LIBERATION.

Hypnotism Forbidden.

The cultivation, study or practice of hypnotism is especially prohibited to Fraters of the Brotherhood, either as a means of entertainment, healing or an avenue to possible clairvoyance. While the academic study of hypnotism is useful to the student, the study of this power for personal practice is in strict opposition to the teachings of the Order. In every case of hypnotic control the operator projects a definite portion of his etheric vehicle into that of his subject (or victim) and there IT REMAINS. This results in a union of karmic conditions, prevents the subject from future supreme control and exercise of his free-will and does incalculable harm to the progress of both Egos. It harms him who operates and him who is operated upon. In medical practice anaesthetics, suggestive therapy and psycho-analysis will almost invariably accomplish the results sought otherwise by hypnotism.

Mediumship Not Allowed.

Neither is the cultivation or practice of so-called mediumship permissible, for the teachings of the Rosicrucian Brotherhood are directed toward the development of POSITIVE, INDEPENDENT SPIRITUAL INSIGHT, the full, free, and complete exercise of the spiritual faculties independently of any form of psychic "control" or obsession. This latter is just as harmful to the subject or involuntary medium or psychic as hypnotic control, and is, in a way, almost identical with it, the hypnotic operator in this case being the unseen spirit or entity of whom the subject has no more knowledge than he would have of a stranger on the street. One certainly would not bid a total stranger into his drawing room, unannounced, or without proper credentials, neither should he permit his mental sanatorium to be invaded by still more subtle, elusive, insidious and sometimes malignant entities from the invisible worlds, for dead men are not always good men, in fact a dead man so-called is often for a time not quite as efficient as a living man.

Earth-bound Astrals Not Desirable Associates.

Our earth region is too close to the lower Astrals to make it prudent for a sensitive individual to submit to the contact with earth-bound entities, and many a time the involuntary medium entertains spiritually those whom he would abhor in physical life. Obsessions of a malignant character threaten those who defy this principle and ignore the warnings of those who may be in a position to know.

It is possible, and in full accord with natural, constructive laws, for EVERY individual to develop SOME degree of spiritual sensitivity and insight if they are willing to keep at it persistently and unflinchingly long enough. But real development means a complete transmutation of the physical structure as well as the spiritual vehicles and it is not accomplished quickly nor without effort and endurance.

In this quest, the victor is he who persists faithfully to the end, and to such come the reward of knowing at first hand, the verities of the life unseen.

Rosicrucians and The Philosopher's Stone.

Rosicrucians are accused of being a credulous sect devoted to the chimera of seeking a stone that will "raise" baser metals to higher ones. This is called "seeking the PHILOSOPHER'S STONE." The Rosicrucians are quite content to let such critics remain in full enjoyment of the satisfaction that may come to them from having proffered their opinions. Such criticism also comes from the peevishness of the disappointed ones who are unable to make progress toward the discovery of the true Stone themselves, and then vent their disappointment on those who "refuse to give them the formula."

Spiritual Science Comes First.

The search for the Philosopher's Stone is one which has engaged the minds of a considerable number of the world's most brilliant thinkers throughout many ages. It is a search resulting from a true inner knowledge of basic facts and fundamental laws OF SPIRITUAL SCIENCE FIRST, and Material Science secondarily.

The Philosopher's Stone a FACT, Not a Theory.

The Philosopher's Stone is a FACT, not a theory, and some have proven it to their entire satisfaction and the good of humanity, but those who have succeeded have also entered into the full recognition and acceptance of the law that makes its comprehension a matter of personal attainment. Nevertheless, those who have attained are under another law which compels them to aid all legitimate efforts on the part of sincere seekers following after them.

Seek First the Kingdom of God.

The bibliography of Alchemy and Hermeticism is replete with apparently meaningless phraseology, intended to conceal rather than to reveal, yet perfectly understood by those who seek first the spiritual insight. The search for the Philosopher's Stone is the obedience to the scriptural admonition, "SEEK YE FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD, AND ALL THESE THINGS SHALL BE ADDED UNTO YOU."

Charge to Neophytes.

Every Rosicrucian Neophyte will remember these words,—“Therefore, in your inquiries and reachings into the deep mysteries of Nature, learn first to know **WHAT THINGS YOU HAVE WITHIN YOURSELF, BEFORE YOU SEEK INTO FOREIGN MATTERS WITHOUT THEM, AND BY THE DIVINE POWER WITHIN YOU, FIRST HEAL YOUR OWN SELF AND TRANSMUTE YOUR OWN SOUL, THAT YOU MAY GO ON PROSPEROUSLY AND SEEK WITH GOOD SUCCESS THE MYSTERIES AND WONDERS OF GOD IN ALL NATURAL THINGS.**” And again,—

“I admonish thee therefore that desirest to delve into the innermost parts of Nature, *if that which thou seekest thou findest not within thyself*, thou wilt never find it without thee.”

What Our Father Hermes Saith.

Our Father Hermes, in his Golden Treatise concerning the Physical Secret of the Philosopher's Stone, saith,—“Through long years, I have not ceased to experiment, neither have I spared any labor of mind; and this science and art I have obtained **BY THE INSPIRATION OF THE LIVING GOD ALONE, WHO JUDGED FIT TO OPEN THEM TO ME HIS SERVANT.** To those enabled by reason to judge of truth He has given power to arbitrate but to **NONE OCCASION OF DELINQUENCY.**”

“For myself, I had never discovered this matter to any one, had it not been from fear of the day of judgment, and the perdition of my soul if I concealed it. **IT IS A DEBT WHICH I AM DESIROUS OF DISCHARGE TO THE FAITHFUL, AS THE AUTHOR OF OUR FAITH DID DEIGN TO BESTOW IT UPON ME.**”

“Understand ye then, O sons of Wisdom, that the knowledge of the four elements of the ancient philosophers was not corporally or imprudently sought after, **WHICH ARE THROUGH PATIENCE TO BE DISCOVERED ACCORDING TO THEIR CAUSES AND THE OCCULT OPERATION.** For their operation is occult, since nothing is done except it be compounded and because it is not perfected unless the colors be thoroughly passed and accomplished.

Not Corporally, But Spiritually.

This gives a clue to the proper comprehension of the elements, but not as they are commonly understood; *non corporaliter* it must be understood, *sed spiritualiter et sapienter*, not corporally but spiritually and wisely. The properties and attributes of Universal Spirit are abstrusely included in all existence and are to be understood only by its *own intimate analysis and introverted light.*

The Innermost Chamber of Life.

“Our Mercury,” says the wise Scholiast, “is philosophic, fiery, vital, running, which may be mixed with other metals and again separated from them. It is prepared in the **INNERMOST CHAMBER OF LIFE, AND THERE IT MAY BE COAGULATED, AND WHERE METALS GROW THERE THEY MAY BE FOUND, EVEN IN THE ULTIMATE AXLE OF EACH CREATED LIFE.**”

“This most precious Stone, are we at length to conclude then, is *Light* essentialized artificially in its proper substance, and exalted by fermentation into an immutable magnet, able to draw and convert the radical homogeneity of Nature into its own assimilative accord.”

Testimony of Scripture.

Can the Philosopher's Stone be attained? Hear what Holy Scripture saith:—

To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the Tree of Life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.

“To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden Manna, and will give him a White Stone, and in the Stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.

“And he that overcometh and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations; and he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken in shivers even as I received from my Father. And I will give him **THE MORNING STAR.**”

“He that overcometh the same shall be clothed in White Raiment And I will not blot out his name out of the Book of Life. Behold I come quickly: hold fast that which thou hast that no man take thy **CROWN.**”

“Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the Temple of my God, and he shall no more go out; and I will write upon him the name of my God—and the name of the city of my God, which is New Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God; and I will write upon him my new name.

“Behold I stand at the door and knock, and if any man hear my voice and open the door I will come in with him, and sup with him, and he with me.

“And to him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

“They, then, who have been fortunate enough to perfect this work, having received so much grace from the Father of Lights as to obtain this inestimable gift of Wisdom Divine, what more on earth should they desire, but that it may always be applied aright in obedience to the Divine Will, for the benefaction of mankind and vindication of true virtue?”

Rosicrucianism Is Progressive.

Rosicrucianism is at once a progressive science, a progressive philosophy and a progressive religion. Orthodox religion is content to accept the Bible more or less literally. Thus it begins with a materialistic traditional account of the first man Adam and ends with Revelation, the greatest revelation of which is the astounding seeming fact that out of all the billions of human beings who have peopled this planet, only 144,000 are to be saved.

The 144,000 Explained. Number of the Beast.

As a matter of fact this statement means that **ALL HUMANITY IS** to be saved. The esoteric truth is revealed by the significance of the numerical valuations of letters. Occult students see nine distinct layers in the earth's crust as differentiated from the many classifications of academic geology. There are nine Initiations. Nine is the number of our evolutionary status. The ancient Hebrews had no numerals, but each of their letters had a numerical valuation. Therefore in reading Hebrew it is equally important to understand the

numerical valuations that may be concealed. Adam is written ADM. The numerical valuations of the letters are, A-1, D-4, M-40. Theosophically written and added gives, 1+4+4+0=9. In Revelation we find the number of the "Beast" given as 666. Theosophically written and added gives 6+6+6=18, and 1+8=9. Adam and the Beast each are synonymous with Humanity as a whole. The "Number of the Beast" therefore signifies Humanity, the materialism of which acts to retard its progress and is its own greatest and arch enemy. 144,000 Theosophically written and added gives 1+4+4+0+0+0=9. Here we have the same number again. Thus if 9 is the number of Humanity and 9 is the number to be saved, it means no more or less than that ALL humanity is to be saved; which is the teaching of the Rosicrucians.

Only Ceremonies of Proven Value Retained.

While the earlier spiritual scientists utilized pentacles and other geometrical forms and formulas as means of concentration, just as the modern clergy use antiquated and sometimes now meaningless ceremonial forms as religious mantras and stimuli, the modern Rosicrucians preserve in their ceremonial work only such forms as have been proven to have distinct occult values and practical merit, in ensuring uniformity of thought, action and intent during their Convocations. This is one point of departure from orthodoxy and standard ecclesiasticism. True spiritual science and academic science progress and take note of the progressive development of the human mind. The Church seems unfortunately to be content with the supernaturalism of nearly two thousand years of propaganda and expects the advanced mind of today to be content with the miracle worship of nineteen centuries past. This means that in many cases the pews are in advance of the chancels, for many regular adherents of orthodox church attendance secretly maintain their own private personal views and concepts often widely at variance with the teachings of the "Church of their Fathers," while rendering as "in good form" outward complaisance with the Church as a still desirable social and moral institution. This means a general weakening of the religious fibre of modern life as is evidenced in the moral laxity of the times in many ways.

Outward Acceptance.

Right up to the present moment, almost, science has been relying on the expensive, often complicated apparatus used in the application of the Roentgen Rays or "X-Rays" for medical examination. Yet we have now discovered that with a simple electric light properly enclosed, excellent shadowgraphs can be taken of the skeletal framework, in some cases better than with the former elaborate apparatus.

So it is with our spiritual natures and soul growth. It is found that the elimination of old, obscure ceremonial, the true meaning of which is lost and perhaps outgrown, leaves the field clear for the application direct of the simpler and more easily applied factors of introspection, concentration and the more rapid development of true spiritual insight; for this is a truly psychic age in spite of its apparent materialism, and the child of today knows more about the inner subtler properties of the human vehicle than his parents when of similar age.

The World Soul.

In this very fact, the Rosicrucian sees an important development, none other than that of the "World Soul." Just as the Three-fold Spirit reacts upon the Three-fold Body extracting therefrom the Essence known as the Three-fold Soul, so the Great Christos or Sun Spirit indrawn into its Physical Vehicle the Earth, is extracting therefrom the Planetary Soular

Body, the gradual development of which is enlightening and illuminating all the Children of this World; for as it is written (Luke xvi-8) "The children of this world are wiser in their generation than the children of light," meaning the earlier generations of humanity, who, while closer to spiritual conditions and relationships than are the present, yet had not developed the individual intelligence to the same degree.

Ignorance the Greatest Sin.

Ignorance may be called the greatest sin. And this is "the sin against the Holy Ghost" which will not be forgiven in this world nor in the world to come (Matt. xii-31). Holy, i.e., sacred or Divine, and Ghost, (Sax. Gust), signify to the Rosicrucian the Divine Breath or Intelligence breathed into the earliest forms of primordial life by the Divine Intelligence, developing, assimilating, guiding and unfolding through all the developmental forms of evolving life up to man's present supreme status in the evolutionary scale. To blaspheme this Holy Guardian Angel or Divine Inner Self by the blindness of ignorance or the failure to realize that our physical senses are but the avenues through which we contact exterior conditions, and to suborn our inner guidance to the fallibility of sense perception, ignoring reason succumbing to the lure of sensualism is the true "sin against the Holy Ghost."

Od Force.

Electricity an Entity.

This Divine Breath will sometime be found to be vastly more than a mere phenomenon of occult science. At present it is used more often in a metaphorical sense with little realization of its true importance. Nevertheless, the Divine Breath in Rosicrucian science is the "Primordial Electric Entity," for Rosicrucianism teaches that Electricity IS an Entity, and "electrifies into life, and separates primordial stuff (Cosmic Root Substance) or pregenetic matter into atoms, themselves the source of all life and consciousness." "There exists a universal AGENT UNIQUE of all forms and of life, that is called Od, Ob, and Aour, active and passive, positive and negative, like day and night: It is the first light in Creation (Eliphaz Levi)—the "first light" of the primordial Elohim, the Adam, "male and female," or (scientifically) Electricity and Life."

"Od is the pure life-giving Light, or magnetic fluid; Ob the messenger of death used by sorcerers, the nefarious evil fluid; Aour is the synthesis of the two, Astral Light proper."

Orthodox religion begins with the traditional account of a mythical personage. Rosicrucianism begins its study of man, aside from primordial cosmological processes, with the actual scale of his evolutionary progress. Agassiz gives the following generalization which the Rosicrucian student closely follows:—

"Agassiz" Table.

- Radiata,
 - A Polyyps, Marine organisms, corals.
 - B Aculephs.
 - C Star-fish, Sea Urchins, etc.
- Mollusca,
 - D Acephala (Oysters, and shell fish).
 - E Gasteropods (Snails).
 - F Cephalopoda.
- Articulata,
 - G Worms,
 - H Crustacea, (Lobsters, etc.)
 - I Insecta.
- Vertebrata,
 - J Fishes,
 - K Reptiles,
 - L Birds,
 - M Mammals, (Including Man.)

Resume of States of Consciousness.

Heindel gave an excellent summary of the states of consciousness through which the evolving life forms have passed, correlated with the proper Periods,—

- Saturn Unconsciousness corresponding to deep trance.
- Sun Unconsciousness resembling dreamless sleep.
- Moon Picture consciousness, corresponding to dream state.

- Earth Waking, objective consciousness.
- Jupiter Self-conscious picture consciousness.
- Venus Objective, Self-conscious, Creative consciousness.
- Vulcan Highest Spiritual Consciousness.

The religious side of Rosicrucianism may be summed up in this, "To know God, by knowing his image, Man." To Live right, think right, act right, and to seek at-one-ment with the Great Spirit which works in all and through all.

High Council Communication

On Sunday, March 21st, the Vernal Equinox, at the Stated Consistory of the Societas Rosicruciana In America, the following Fraters were Raised and Crowned with the Sublime, Perfect and Ineffable Ninth Degree, of Prince Chief Adept:

- Charles Arthur Logan, Morganton, N. C., Washington College.
- Frederick William Schlieder, New York City, Metropolitan College.

The Degree was conferred by the Imperator, assisted by the following cast:

- Senior Magus, (Acting) V. . W. . Fr. Patricius, IX°.
- Junior Magus, Rt. . W. . Fr. Paracelsus, IX°, and V. . W. . Fr. Cronus, IX°.
- C. of O. and K.O.S. V. . W. . Fr. Reficio, IX°.
- Her. and K.O.W. V. . W. . Fr. Firmus, IX°.
- Prec. and Anc. Rt. . W. . Fr. Paracelsus, IX°.
- Entr. Ill. Fr. Dionysius, 9°-2°.

The Consistory was Opened in full ceremonial form at 9:50 A.M. and closed at 4:45 P.M. V. . W. . Fr. Patricius was the Celebrant, assisted by V. . W. . Fr. Firmus as Deacon:

On Sunday, March 28th (Palm Sunday) a Delegation of High CCouncil and Ninth Degree members visited and decorated the graves of our late Fraters Bohme (Robertson) and Lincoln (McLean). The former is interred at Parsippany, N. J., the latter at Fairview, Hudson Heights, N. J.

Good Friday - Easter Observances

The Good Friday Ritual and the Symbolic Closing of all Colleges of the Order in America, was accomplished by the Imperator, assisted by Rt. . W. . Fr. Paracelsus, IX° as Celebrant and V. . W. . Fr. Firmus, IX°, as Acolyte at the House of the S. . S. . The Theological Class participated in the Rite. The usual Easter Opening Ceremonial was held Sunday Morning, April 4th.

College Note

THE ZELATOR DEGREE, 1°-10°, will be conferred in April at a date to be announced later. All who are to qualify for this Degree should begin work on the study of their examinations at once. The Degree will be conferred solely on the basis of 50% attendance in the class to which the candidate has been assigned, dating from the time of his assignment; also 70% average class rating.

Directory.

The One Hundred and Twentieth Stated Convocation of Metropolitan College S. . R. . I. . A. ., will be held in the Adytum, 310 Lenox Avenue Between 125th. and 126th. Streets, opposite 125th. Street station, Lenox Ave. Subway.

Friday Evening, April 9, 1920, at 8.00 P. M. precisely

Work:

Neophytes' Class Instructor V. Wor. Fr. Reficio IX°
Elementary Rosicrucian Philosophy, No. 12,
Subject: "ROSICRUCIANISM AND RELIGION."

This Class will meet at 8 P.M., on Wednesday, April 14, in Room 1429 Masonic Temple, 24th St. Take Elevators from 24th Street entrance.

Junior Hermetic Class.....Instructor. Rt. Wor. Fr. Paracelsus IX°
Subject: No. 10, "PUTREFACTIO."

Senior Class.Instructor, Fr. K.
Subject: "THE ROSICRUCIAN FIRE DOCTRINE."

The Theological Class

Convenes on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month at 712 West 180th Street at 8:30 P.M. April 15,—ACTS OF THE APOSTLES.

Antrological Class.

Sr. Progressia 9°-2°.
2nd and 4th Tuesdays. 712 West 180th Street.
CLASS CONVENES AT 8:00 P. M. PRECISELY, PLEASE BE PROMPT.

Masonic Notices.

THE TWENTY-NINTH REGULAR VOYAGE AND DINNER OF METROPOLITAN LODGE NO. 1, ARK MARINER MASONS, will be held at the Au Coq Gaulois, 32 West 57th Street, Manhattan, at 7:30 o'clock Wednesday April 21.

Declaratio Obsequii.

Metropolitan College acknowledges allegiance to the Magi and Officers of the High Council of the Societas Rosicruciana In America and Affiliated Councils, as the Sovereign Source of the Rosicrucian Art in the United States of America. The House of the S. . S. . of this Obedience is at present situate in the the City of New York.