

Fraternization News

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NOTES AND NEWS

Our New Format

This, the sixth issue of *Fraternization News* appears in a new garb. We think the *News* is now important enough to appear in a more dignified format, and a good friend of Fraternization, Mr. Warren Nelson, of the Hamilton Typesetting Company, has given us a reasonable price for the printing of the May and June issues. Result: We're all dressed up for Buffalo.

Program for Convention

May we draw your attention to the statement about the program which appears on page two. The outline there given is subject to modification, but the subjects and speakers have been practically lined up, and only the finishing touches remain. Nothing is being left undone to make the convention interesting, stimulating and inspiring. With your help it will go down in Theosophical history as another distinct step forward to the ideals of the Masters.

Thanks a Lot!

To friends who sent in monetary contributions last month we express our grateful thanks. Theirs is help of a practical kind. We acknowledge with pleasure the following donations: Hollywood (Point Loma) lodge, Hollywood, Calif., \$5; Nemo, \$3; Mrs. Le Roy T. Steward, Chicago, \$2; General J. D. Lodeesen-Grevinck, Ann Arbor, Mich., \$1.60; Mr. Clarence E. Laughlin, Portland, Oregon, \$1; A Friend, \$1. We also extend our best thanks to Toronto lodge, Toronto, Ont., for its offer to meet the cost of two issues of the *News*, up to \$18. This ensures that readers will get the June number. Cheers for Toronto!

We're Seeking Ideas

If anyone has any ideas about improving the convention, or suggestions about subjects for discussion, Mr. Robert Marks, of 875 St. Clair Avenue West, Toronto, Ont., will be glad to receive them. We want everyone to feel that they have a share in making the Buffalo gathering a success, so send along your brain-waves.

Hotel Rates

Rates for rooms in the Hotel Lafayette run from \$2.50 to \$4 for single rooms with bath, and from \$4 to \$6 for double rooms with bath. There are a limited number of single rooms, without bath, at \$2 per day.

Prices for meals are: Main dining room, breakfast from 35 cents, luncheon 90 cents, dinner \$1; coffee shop, breakfast 20 cents, luncheon 35 cents, dinner 75 cents.

Tentative Program

The Place: Hotel Lafayette, Lafayette Square, Buffalo, N.Y.

The Dates: Saturday and Sunday, June 27th and 28th, 1936

By 11 o'clock on Saturday it is hoped sufficient students will have arrived to enable business to begin. First, will come the appointment of the chairman of the convention, the vice-chairman and the resolutions committee. Then will follow the chairman's address, and one or two short papers on subjects of importance to all students will be given, for instance, on Lotus Circle work and on The Presentation of Theosophy. These, with the discussions, should bring us to lunch time.

Two Afternoon Sessions

Commencing at 2.30 o'clock, two sessions will be held, with two papers at each. The delivery of a paper will not exceed thirty minutes, when the meeting will be open for discussion, and here I may say, the discussion on each paper will be under the direction of a student who is perfectly competent to lead it. This should bring us to 4.30 p.m.

Since dinner is a most important event for most of us, there will be no further meeting of the convention, unless otherwise desired, until the public meeting at 8 o'clock, when a symposium on Comparative Religions by three Theosophical students will be given.

Business Meeting

On Sunday, June 28th, we hope to start at 10.30 a.m., opening the session with the conduct of any business arising out of the report of the resolutions committee. Ample time should be allowed for the introduction and discussion of any subject by any member. An address on Propaganda (recommended in a resolution of the last convention) and a public address on Karma and Reincarnation will conclude the morning session.

Civic Reception

At 1 o'clock the convention luncheon will be addressed by the Mayor of Buffalo.

At 2.30 p.m. four more papers will be given at two simultaneous sessions, each of which will be over at 4.30 o'clock.

This will conclude the papers, but, if desired, the members can assemble in the Mahogany room (where the morning sessions will be held) and hold discussions on any subject they wish, until dinner.

At 8 o'clock a public meeting will be held, when an address will be given on, What Is Theosophy?

Time for Fraternization

This will conclude the convention, but it will be noticed that lots of time will be available for fraternization, for discussion and for any papers other than those arranged for by the program committee, if the convention desires.

A complete program will be printed and this, together with all information about the Hotel Lafayette, will be forwarded to all receiving *Fraternization News* and all others making a request, some time in June.

ROBERT MARKS.

Message from J. Emory Clapp

A sentence in the April number of *Fraternization News* contains an idea which should be dwelt upon by all who are interested in the success of the Fraternization Movement. I quote: "Can we not emphasize that the thing that matters is our devotion to Theosophy?"

Devotion to Theosophy

What is meant by that phrase, "Our devotion to Theosophy?" It surely cannot mean our devotion to our own preconceived ideas, prejudices, personal feelings, etc. It cannot pertain to anything of a personal nature, because Theosophy is universal. The Masters have given us the ideal in their many references to "Universal Brotherhood" in THE MAHATMA LETTERS. We should, therefore, not only preach brotherhood, but live brotherhood, especially with relation to other Theosophists.

I cannot do better than to quote from that great Theosophist, H. P. Blavatsky. In her Letters to the American Conventions there is something which is of great value to us at the present time. In order to bring out the point I have in mind I will rearrange these quotations which are taken mainly from her third letter, although one sentence is from the second letter.

Union Is Strength

"The Masters require only that each shall do *his best*, and, above all, that each shall strive in reality to feel himself one with his fellow workers." "Thus, then, 'UNION IS STRENGTH'; and for every reason private differences must be sunk in united work for our Great Cause." "It is not a dull agreement on intellectual questions, or an impossible unanimity as to all details of work, that is needed; but a true, hearty, earnest devotion to our cause which will lead each to help his brother to the utmost of his power *to work* for that cause, whether or not we agree as to the exact method of carrying on that work. The only man who is absolutely wrong in his method is the one who *does nothing*; each can and should co-operate with all and all with each in a large-hearted spirit of comradeship to forward the work of bringing Theosophy home to every man and woman in the country."

We Can Move the World

And finally as a fitting conclusion to these quotations I offer the following: "Let the encouragement we draw from a survey of the results accomplished in the year that has fled serve to spur us on to greater efforts and more strenuous exertion. Let it make all feel that there is a power behind the Society (Movement) which will enable us to move the world, if we will but *unite* and work as one mind, one heart."

ADMONITIONS OF PYTHAGORAS

Accustom thyself to overcome and vanquish these passions:—First gluttony, sloth, sensuality and anger.

Do nothing evil, neither in the presence of others, nor privately; but above all things respect thyself.

In the next place, observe justice in thy actions and in thy words. And accustom not thyself to behave thyself in anything without rule, and without reason.—*The Golden Verses of Pythagoras.*

The Upward Path

Love, Harmony, Unity, among mankind, belong to the right track, the upward path, and the opposites to the checking forces. With this principle in mind, we can accept offhand the message that Unity in the Theosophical Movement is the actual "command" of the higher and highest authority behind the veil.

Nevertheless, splits occurred in the erstwhile united society, as soon as the founder had left the scene. This must have been expected, foreseen behind the veil, nay, brought about purposely, to put us to the test.

No Absolute Authority

Where is absolute authority in matters of truth in the spiritual? Nowhere, but self-asserted!

To bring about the unity longed for, both of the main societies should give up their claim to be *The Theosophical Society*. *Adyar* should sacrifice its right of primogeniture. *Point Loma* should be less stiff, as to the amending of the original text of the *Secret Doctrine*—for the sake of Unity.

Mutual Agreement

Equally essential is mutual agreement about the vision: That the divine in man can be developed from *within*, but also from *without*, by religion and ceremonies and songs, belief in angels (not necessarily winged).

The open question about the succession of H.P.B. should drop into oblivion, by common consent, as having nothing to do with the teachings and, surely, not one worth-while hammering into the mind at every possible occasion, in word or writ—for the sake of Unity.

Let our motto be, Unified, not Uniform.

J. D. LODEESEN-GREVINCK.

DANGERS OF MEDIUMSHIP

It is erroneous to speak of a medium having *powers* developed. A passive medium has no power. He has a certain moral and physical condition which induces emanations, or an aura, in which his controlling intelligences can live, and by which they manifest themselves. He is only the vehicle through which *they* display their power * * * The medium's moral state determines the kind of spirits that come; and the spirits that come reciprocally influence the medium, intellectually, physically and morally. The perfection of his mediumship is in ratio to his passivity, and the danger he incurs is in equal degree.—ISIS UNVEILED.

CONVENTION COMMITTEE

The Fourth Theosophical Fraternization Convention will be held in Buffalo, June 27th and 28th. The Convention organizer is Mr. Robert Marks, 875 St. Clair Avenue West, Toronto, Ont. Other members of the Fraternization committee are: Mr. J. Emory Clapp, 30 Huntington Avenue, Boston, Mass., and Mr. E. L. T. Schaub, 220 Gardner Bldg., Toledo, Ohio. Please address all communications to Cecil Williams, 49 East 7th Street, Hamilton, Ont., Canada, Editor of *Fraternization News* and committee convenor.