

THE ORACLE,

EXPONENT OF WEST GATE PHILOSOPHY.

ISSUED MONTHLY.

CHARLES H. MACKAY, - - - - - Editor and Publisher.

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Stars of the Zodiac.

This month we have the beautiful constellation of Virgo to study. In the evening hours of June this brilliant group will occupy a central-southern section of the heavens (not so nearly overhead as we found Leo a month since). This constellation may be quite easily identified by aid of a small irregular square of four stars; also from the fact that the dazzling, first magnitude star Spica, is a member of the group. Upon the evenings of June 9th and 10th the Moon will pass through this constellation. By bearing this fact in mind the student will be able to unmistakably locate Virgo. The most important groups immediately surrounding Virgo are as follows: Leo on the west; Bootes, north; Libra, east, and Corvus upon the south. To any and all students who are interested in the study of the stars I will gladly give such private help as they need. My star map (price ten cents) is useful in this study. Great help and inspiration is derived from contemplation of the stars, and I especially urge my occult friends to "star-gaze" at every opportunity.

—"Theosophy offers a startling explanation of death, and one that is a seeming anomaly. It says that death is caused by an excess of life. It is this overpowering quantity of life that puts us to sleep at the close of every day; but until old age has set its mark upon us, or some disarrangement of the system has disturbed its natural functions, our power to resist this life current is greater than

that of the current itself. When we wake in the morning our power of resistance is at its best, but as the day wanes our bodies grow weary with the struggle, until at night the current of vital life energy pulsing through us forces us to sleep."—*Exchange*.

Of all the puerile sayings accredited to "theosophy," perhaps the above is the culmination! Death caused by an excess of life!! We may prepare ourselves to hear next that "the chain broke because of its strength?" *Not* an excess of life in the soul, but a *lack* of it in the body,—this is the cause of death and of sleep.

Important Announcement.—I have just issued a series of "*West Gate Phenomena Lessons*" upon the following general lines:—1. Mediumistic Development. 2. Telepathy—with tests and experiments for communicating with distant friends. 3. Crystal Gazing, and other means of objective concentration. 4. Clairvoyance, Psychometry, etc., with tests and experiments. 5. Hypnotic Powers—their use and abuse. All the lessons are of a practical, experimental character to meet the needs of my students and all others who desire reliable data for becoming more thoroughly informed upon these things and for teaching them to classes and private pupils. Nos. 3 and 4 are treated in *one double lesson*, price of which is \$1.

Single Lessons, 50c.

Five Lessons, (the full course) \$2.00

No extra fee for *private* letters.

C. H. MACKAY, 39 E. Springfield St., Boston, Mass.

—A very indifferent sort of a street band commenced to play beneath my window one bright morning recently, and mentally I began to criticise something like this: "The upper notes of that clarinet are something abominable; the bass viol is one-fourth tone below pitch; the second violin sounds *so* scratchy and *woody!*" And, as I wrote my letters that morning, my thoughts were partially held by the street band artists (!). Then, getting slightly ac-

customed to the imperfections, I entered another mental state. I imagined that I was listening to instruments played by men who were absolute masters. Shortly I created a most entrancing concert from those recent discords. The high notes of the clarinet seemed to re-arrange themselves into most perfect and tuneful qualities; the second violin began to make harmony of so pure a character that I no longer remembered that the sounds were suggestive of wood, cat-gut and a small, shabby Italian; the strings of the bass viol seemed to gradually shorten until the pitch was simply perfect, while the first violin stood prominently out with pure round tones, carrying a divine melody, into and around which the other instruments were building a grand and solid support. . . . It was impossible for this ecstasy to long continue, for the discords were altogether too over-powering! But the incident started the following train of thought, which may wisely be "taken home" by all: Is it not possible for us to *cultivate* such a condition in connection with most of the inharmonies of daily life? Is it not possible to hear, see and feel pleasant things in the very midst of strife and discord? Can we not create beauties from scenes and incidents which are ordinarily considered unpleasant? Is there not an ideal interior state possible to us continually, into the magic circle of which even our most uncongenial associates cannot bring darkness? Is there anything lost worth holding and is there not *everything* gained worth gaining in the way of peace and harmony, by systematically transforming, or seeking to transform, discords into such melody and harmony that all, *all* fits beautifully into the great song of life?

—Mr. J. B. Sullivan, the author of "Seven Easy Lessons in Astrology," writes me in the following pleasant vein: "I think the ORACLE an ideal publication; an intellectual repast, daintily served and easily assimilated. You are to be commended for your effort and congratulated on its result as shown in your charming publication."

—I am informed that one of my W. G. Teachers has several classes with a total membership of over one hundred students. And so the mysterious forces of our philosophy are quietly working. All the West Gate lessons are very potent to urge the student into independent lines of teaching. No one can faithfully study these principles and put said principles into the *life* without becoming a power to be widely felt and recognized. Every lesson sent out is condensed and full of suggestion. Our teachers are finding an unlimited field, and I am always at their service, and glad to give advice and help in all cases where needed.

—We want names of advanced thinkers; spiritualists, theosophists, scientists and liberal minded people of every school. If you will send fifty carefully selected names and addresses of such people we will reciprocate by giving you a year's subscription to the ORACLE, or one of the lessons of the W. G. Phenomena Course (see list on another page), or will allow you one dollar toward the payment of the "White Eagle" lessons. If you will send one hundred names and one dollar additional we will send you the *full course* of Phenomena lessons.

—I would like to have the members of the Brotherhood make a practice of signing the "W. G. B." initials together with the individual number, to all letters and under all circumstances where advisable. For example, "John Smith, W. G. B. 13." By doing this you will make yourself known to other members, thus forming new ties and in many instances becoming of practical assistance to each other. Also in writing to your students, or for the press, or in the capacity of lecturer or teacher I would especially urge you to observe this suggestion. When writing me I wish you would add your number to all letters. *W. G. B.* stand for the purest and noblest principles, and I would that each member might feel as honored to affix these letters to his name as I am to use them in connection with my own name as founder of the order.

—To those who are not familiar with the foundation principles of West Gate Philosophy we will send pamphlets bearing upon the following subjects: "What is a Master?" "Continued Consciousness," "The West Gate," "The Building of the Temple," "Advantages of a Celebate Life, from an Occult Standpoint," "Fasting," "The Adept of the Occident," etc., etc. Each pamphlet contains not only an essay upon one or more of these subjects, but answers many interesting questions from occult students. Price, five cents each. A full course of ten lessons for beginners, \$1.

—The National Purity Association, 79 Fifth Avenue, Chicago, offers to send one dollar's worth of reading matter for ten cents. Said matter consisting of leading papers.

—Numbers 156 (C), 157 (C), 158 (C), 159 (P), 164 (H), and 165 (U) are either suspended or dismissed members of the W. G. B. The letter enclosed in parenthesis, following each number, is the first letter of the surname of the ex-member. These numbers are forever annulled. They can never be used again in connection with W. G. B. membership. Should the ex-members ever be re-instated they would be given new numbers. Kindly make note of the above numbers and letters.—C. H. M.

—"The thought comes to me, 'What shall I say regarding your White Eagle lessons?' I can only express myself in these words. *they could not be better.* I would that every human being could understand and live up to their teachings."—A. P.

—We have received an interesting pamphlet entitled, "The Only God, or Whence? and Whither?" It is privately issued by the author, Mr. J. P. Cooke, of the Columbia Theatre, Boston.

—Have you solved the "riddle of the Sphinx?" If you cannot conquer *this* environment, what right have you to suppose that you can conquer the *next*? Most people seem to be waiting, *waiting*, WAITING, with the dull and in-

—Better have loose numbers of the ORACLE bound. The two volumes bound in a durable cloth cover will make a very attractive book. If you wish me to get it done for you I will do so at the following prices: One volume, 30 cents; two volumes (in one cover) 40 cents. Before sending them look them over carefully and see that all the numbers are in the package. If you lack any I can supply them at ten cents each. The postage on loose numbers is one cent for each four ounces. Be sure and write your name on the outside of the package. The ten West Gate pamphlets can be bound at the same price, (30 cents).

—“Enjoy the blessings of this day, if God sends them, and the evils of it bear patiently and calmly; for this day only is ours; we are dead to yesterday, and we are not born to the morrow.” The blessings of immunity, safeguard, liberty and integrity deserve the thanksgiving of a whole life. We are quit from a thousand calamities, every one of which, if it were upon us, would make us insensible of our present sorrow, and glad to receive it in exchange for that other greater affliction.—*I. O. T. B.*

—Have you read “Seven Easy Lessons in Astrology?” Sent to any address for 25 cents.

—The Moon Table, by hours, for the entire year (1897) is now ready. Price 10 cents.

—Get up real early one of these bright mornings and view the planet Venus. She reaches greatest brilliancy June 3. She rises about two hours before the Sun, at a point somewhat north of east. May 27 and June 25, the old moon will add to the beauty of the scene.

—This is the last issue of volume second. Many subscriptions expire with this number. As an inducement for prompt renewal we make this generous offer: To all subscribers who pay one year in advance we will present them with any lesson of the W. G. Phenomena Course which they may choose, (see list of the lessons elsewhere). This offer is extended to both new and old subscribers.

