

The Teacher Of Theosophists

WHITE LOTUS DAY

BY SOPHIA WADIA

THIS evening the United Lodge of Theosophists will celebrate the forty-seventh anniversary of the passing of H. P. Blavatsky. She inspired a score of men in 1875 to start a society for the study and the promulgation of age-old ideas and spiritual truths forgotten in the nineteenth century. Among these were two men, who, with her as their teacher, may be reckoned as the three chief founders of the Society. They were W. Q. Judge, who assisted her in delivering her grand message, and Colonel H. St. Olcott who built up the organisation in which Theosophy was to be studied and through which it was to be promulgated.

To this evening's celebration at 51, Esplanade Road will also go—as past years have shown—all those men and women who reverence the great and the holy, the wise and the generous lovers of mankind. An increasing number of people in Bombay recognize the worth of H. P. Blavatsky because of her teachings which the United Lodge of Theosophists has been propagating in this city, month by month, throughout the year, and for several years past.

The Merits Of Theosophy

People have erred in evaluating the philosophy of Theosophy and the teachings of Mme. Blavatsky, because they did not separate the philosophy from the Society which was founded to study it; they did not distinguish the teachings of Mme. Blavatsky from the writings of those who claimed to translate and to interpret them. It would be unfair to judge the teachings of Jesus Christ from what the *padres* say or what the churches promulgate. The Wisdom of Jesus is in His sermons and sayings and to those texts a sincere enquirer must turn. Similarly, if one desires to learn about the teachings of H. P. Blavatsky he should go to her books and articles.

Theosophy should be judged, accepted or rejected on its own merits. Though the philosophy is as old as thinking man and though the term Theosophy itself is not new and was not invented by Mme. Blavatsky, she was the one who presented the teaching to the modern world. She it was who dug deep in the old mines of knowledge and brought forth not mere nuggets of gold, but also precious diamonds and sapphires; it was she who fashioned out of the nuggets the strong chain on which she strung those brilliant gems and offered it to our humanity as a talisman against two major diseases the dogmatism of religions and the materialism of science.

Religion And Science

All of us individually suffer from the limitations of our religious upbringing and our scientific education. Neither our creedal beliefs nor science's theories aid us to free our minds and to illumine them. True modern science has helped us to free the mind from the crudities and the credulities of religious formalism and superstition; but that science had nothing really good to offer to satisfy the yearning of the human heart, to ennoble our moral perception, and to inspire us to fashion our lives in holiness and mercy. It was to a famishing humanity that H. P. Blavatsky brought not only nourishment for the enquiring mind, but also manna for the heart longing for peace and joy, and eager to pour itself out in the prayer of active sacrifice.

Mme. Blavatsky loved India as "the cradle of the race" and "the Alma-Mater, not only of the civilization, arts and sciences, but also of all the great religions of antiquity," and yet, since 1885 when she left these shores, her teachings remained unknown except to a handful of men, till in recent years an organized and systematic attempt has been made to promulgate them. Now her philosophy is becoming known to more and more people each year.

But what did she teach? What are the principal teachings of her vast philosophy?

true spirit of the early Rosicrucians and mediaeval philosophers who called themselves Theosophists.

Very often Mme. Blavatsky uses the name "Wisdom-Religion" in speaking of Theosophy. She defines the term as:—

The one religion which underlies all the now-existing creeds. That "faith" which being primordial, and revealed directly to human kind by their progenitors and informing EGOS (though the

Madame H. P. Blavatsky



The greatest Theosophist of the era, whose 47th anniversary, known as White Lotus Day, will be commemorated on Sunday 8th May.

Theosophy Defined

The very first and, from many points of view, the most important question to which an answer has to be found is—What is Theosophy? It is not sufficient to substitute two words for one and to say Theosophy is Divine Wisdom; what is Divine Wisdom? Vagueness and confusion exist and it is necessary to be a little more definite. Mme. Blavatsky has explained at length and we will quote some of her vitally important statements. In her *Theosophical Glossary* she defines Theosophia thus:—

The substratum and basis of all the world religions and philosophies, taught and practised by a few elect ever since man became a thinking being. In its practical bearing, Theosophy is purely *divine ethics*; the definitions in dictionaries are pure nonsense, based on religious prejudice and ignorance of the

Church regards them as the "fallen angels", required no "grace", nor *blind faith* to believe, for it was *knowledge*. It is on this *Wisdom Religion* that *Theosophy* is based.

Thus, the basis of Theosophy, is the Wisdom-Religion also called the Esoteric Philosophy or *Gupta-Vidya*. The hoary antiquity of this Wisdom-Religion (Bodhi Dharma) is referred to by her:—

There was a time, aeons before the Brahmans became a caste, or even the Upanishads were written, when there was on earth but one "lip", one religion and one science, namely the speech of the gods, the Wisdom Religion and Truth. This was before the fair fields of the latter, overrun by nations of many languages, became overgrown with the weeds of intentional deception, and national creeds invented by ambition,

cruelty and selfishness, brot one sacred Truth into those of fragments.

Theosophy, The Source

H. P. Blavatsky drank very source of this Spirit Wisdom, Universal and cons Therefore she says in her preface the *Secret Doctrine* that:—

...it is perhaps desirable state unequivocally that teachings, however fragment and incomplete, contained these volumes, belong neither to Hindu, the Zoroastrian, the Chaldean, nor the Egyptian religion, neither to Buddhism, Islam, Judaism nor Christianity exclusively. The *Secret Doctrine* is the essence of all these. Sprung from it in their origins, the various religious schemes are now made to merge back into their original element, out of which every mystery and dogma has grown, developed, and become materialised.

One more quotation ought to clarify the position and bring out fully the answer of Madame Blavatsky to the question—"What is Theosophy?" This Esoteric Philosophy or *Secret Doctrine* or *Gupta Vidya* is called "the accumulated Wisdom of the Ages," and she adds that:—

It is useless to say that the system in question is no fancy of one or several isolated individuals. That it is the uninterrupted record covering thousands of generations of Seers whose respective experiences were made to test and to verify the traditions passed orally by one early race to another, of the teachings of higher and exalted beings, who watched over the childhood of Humanity.

No vision of one adept was accepted till it was checked and confirmed by the visions so obtained as to stand as independent evidence of other adepts, and by centuries of experiences.

Two Branches

The philosophy which H. P. Blavatsky taught may be said to fall into two broad compartments—metaphysical and ethical. They are, of course, interdependent. Cosmical and philosophical propositions by themselves appear cold and distant unless their practical bearing on everyday living is seen. On the other hand, the moral and altruistic admonitions and injunctions sound like the goody goody sermons of some grandmother when divorced from the universals in which they are rooted. Unless the metaphysical propositions of Theosophy are made to vitalize the moral instruction and both are pressed by man into task of self-reformation, Theosophy is not of any great use to him. Those of us who have devoted years to the study and application of Theosophy recorded by H. P. Blavatsky know that it is a quickener of conscience and an awakener of the Soul. The first need of man, if he desires to live rationally is to learn *how to think*. And the earliest step in the process of thinking is self-examination. The nature of the combatants who are continuously fighting in the brain and the blood of every one of us has to be determined, and in this the psychological propositions which grow out of the roots of metaphysics are most helpful.

(Continued on page 10)

TALK IT OVER

Indian Graduates As Bus-conductors

India's Foreign Trade Is Declining

Camera Gun Invented To Shoot Distant Landscapes

Dress Budget Of English Bachelors

BY JALERIQ

ACCORDING to the quarterly report of the Indian Government Trade Commission, Hamburg, European countries are pushing ahead their foreign trade. But when the report reviews the course of India's trade, the Commission grimly states

"The exports of the non-European countries during the fourth quarter have, however, risen, compared to their exports during the previous quarter. British India is an exception to this statement, for her exports during this quarter appear to have declined quite substantially."

The foreign trade of 53 countries which cover up 90 to 95 per cent of world's trade, increased their turnover by 5% in value 7% in volume. Comparing the difficult conditions as faced by Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Sweden etc., in the year 1936 and the remarkable revival of each of them in 1937 should be an object lesson for India which is still weeping in her cradle of industry.

Evidently the sons of Nippon at present are busy gulping down helpless China. Probably she wants a place under the sun, and hence the setback in her internal economy. Japan's import have declined by 22.5% and China's imports by 37.9%.

But what about India. Politically it is supposed to be advancing yet there can be no substantial progress in the right sense of the term, if there is no planned economy on which the pivot of her Industries move. In this respect Mr. J. C. Setalvad rightly maintained at the first Quarterly General Meeting of the Indian Merchants' Chamber that the present popular Government were not devoting as much attention as necessary to measures dealing

with economic problems. It is a sorry plight indeed that our rich natural resources as well as mineral and herbal products are not utilised to the advantage of the people of the country. "Human beings and natural resources are the two ultimate factors of production." This is the fundamental fact that should be remembered by those who steer our affairs.

GRADUATES, PLEASE NOTE

NOW what will you say to this. In Travancore State some Graduates have become bus conductors. Quite an honest profession of course and besides don't you think that they are having a run of luck and ambition everyday through the streets of Travancore?

Probably after sometime this field also will be invaded by thousands of these educated paupers, for what else can they do.

Alas, much has been spoken about our inefficient education. Macaulay who said "industry shall be my bread, attention my butter" started it. But who is going to end it is the question.

CAMERA-GUN

"I AM going to shoot pictures" is a pet phrase with every cameraman. "To shoot pictures" had been used so far literally. But now that phrase can be used in its right sense. A gun has been invented, for shooting pictures at long range. It is called the Leica-Camera Gun. In an issue of the *Scientific American*, vivid description is given of this marvellous invention.

Shaped exactly like a gun, a 200 m.m. Telyt lens is mounted on it.

Further a telescopic sight incorporated for focusing on the ground glass of the mirror reflex housing, focusing being done by means of the lens barrel. The image is corrected horizontally and vertically by a second mirror and is thence led back to the eye by way of the telescopic sight so that it is right side up and correct as to right and left.

So far this has been the last word in Camera. Just wait and watch Scientific discoveries and inventions know no stoppage nor braking.

THESE BACHELORS!

TO tell you the truth, the instalment system is a blessing as well as a curse. Blessing, because it affords convenience of payment—but at times it is a curse because it tempts one to go in for everything best he desires to have.

In London it is said, the biggest spenders are the bachelors.

The average yearly expenditure on dress for men of various incomes is:

£150 a year man (single)	£10
£300 a year man (single)	£38
£1,000 a year man	£60.

These figures include all articles of clothes—suits, overcoats, hats, gloves, underwear, socks, ties, and so on but no wives.

Be that what it may, but then what about the Indian students who are there. Will not any one in London throw light on their average spendings?

FASHION, THY NAME IS WOMAN

WE are talking of bachelors, now here is something about the ladies. A Board of Trade has done well to give us an idea by statistics of what these "caustic Cleopatras" are up to. Here it is.

	Percentage.	1921,	1937.
Women using face powder	20	...	96
Women using rouge and lipstick	6	...	65

COL. BROWN'S CAMBRIDGE SCHOOL (For Indian Boys) DEHRA DUN.

A high class Private School for the sons of Indian gentlemen. Conducted as far as possible, on the model of the English Public Schools. Founded in 1926. Ownership and Management entirely European. Games and Physical Training are special features. In 1937, 18 boys passed the Senior Cambridge and 8 out of the 30 vacancies at the Indian Military Academy were secured by Students of the School. These results have never hitherto been equalled by any similar school in India.

The School caters for boys of all Indian Classes and communities—Hindus, Moslems, Sikhs, Parsees etc., etc.

Boys are admitted between the ages of 6 and 14 years.

Next Term commences 8th July 1938.

Prospectus etc. from:—

Colonel. W. BROWN, M.A., (Dublin),
Principal, Col. Brown's Cambridge School, DEHRA DUN.

Women permanently waved $\frac{1}{2}$... 60

Women having facial treatments $\frac{1}{4}$... 25

Women using perfumes 10 ... 75

So why grumble of economic depression. "One of the most disastrous mistakes that any man can make" says Henry Ford "is to allow himself to lose his initiative." Since you know that fashions change and with them the women, why lose your initiative. Start running a shop containing things that mainly interest women.

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CENTRAL LOCALITY
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