

longs to Mother Earth, then we, too, can say, as did the Russian poet:

The world will turn when we are earth;
As though we had not come or gone,
There was no lack of life before our birth,
When we are gone there will be none.

Modern science shows us that all nature is alive, and while no chemist has ever made an egg that would hatch, there is no mystery about life. In a recent number of Current Thought the writer has published an article upon "Life Artificially Produced", copies of which will be sent to anyone desiring it. The problem of feeling and thought which is but a higher form, involves the question of memory, which we cannot discuss here. It is a legitimate question to ask: Why does the tiny egg or seed remember what shall be its form of development? Why does a kernel of wheat never forget to grow into the blade and stalk of mature wheat?

Before I conclude let us see for a moment if the cell has a secret which we call life. The delicate cell membrane envelops the cell substance, the protoplasm with its fluid and fibrils. The whole affair we find to be a chemical apparatus. The nucleus, the nucleoli and centersomes all represent different forms of matter, hence possesses varied forms of vitality or force. The histologist watches the migration of the centersomes to the periphery or margin of the cell as the process of cell division begins. These become centers of attraction and delicate lines of radiation are to be seen extending toward the center or nucleus. Finally when the nucleus is split in twain and at last the cell substance and membrane, the scientist knows that some chemical reaction has occurred. Growth is absorption. There is a limit, and some immutable law, just as a dewdrop glistening in the morning sun cannot help but be round, so the cell must obey this law of growth and divide, or it must perish. What these laws are we do not know and cannot at present. No more does the chemist know in the simple reaction of sulphuric acid upon zinc, why a certain group of atoms likes zinc better than hydrogen.

What the likes and dislikes of matter mean cannot be known until we know the form of the atom—the mighty atom! There is no mystery about the cell, nor yet is there mystery about life.

Let us throw off this fashionable mysticism, this willful laziness of thought and be real searches for truth. Let us not search for what we hope to find—let us search for truth, and whatever science reveals, take it, value it. Let us not think of angels on gauzy wings floating in mystic realms of light, just because we do not know why the

centersome migrates to the periphery of the cell.

Some of this body have not forgiven a paper read before this Institute, which protested against the mysticism of dualism usually known as Spiritualism. On this occasion I shall say but a word. So many people set about the search for facts regarding psychic phenomena, seeking to prove the theory of dualism. They are often sincere yet unconscious of the psychological laws that are governing them. Thus the society for Psychological Research in England was organized to throw light upon a very dark subject. What has its work been? Merely a collection of a vast heterogeneous mass of ghost stories. Books published in this country for a similar end are but a little more than compilations of such incidents and experiences. Mysticism says: These experiences prove beyond a doubt the reality of spirit life.

Science says: Did you examine all the subjective conditions? Do you know that there is not some power of brain cell to set up a form of motion in ether atoms not now understood? Do we know enough about the psychic power of mind to draw these conclusions?

"Yes, yes," the mystic says "we are happy in our knowledge. We are on the 7th plane. Your poor weaklings have no spiritual eyes and must grope in darkness yet a while."

So the struggle between science and mysticism goes on. Only within the narrow limits of the dualistic school and orthodoxy does the enemy hold much ground. Science has driven the devilish specter from nearly all other provinces.

In conclusion I ask you candidly, if you could but forget yourself for a moment, which side of this warfare would you take? Are you sure that you have not drawn conclusions and then sought the proof? Rather than first the evidence then the law.

We stop here not because the subject has been properly discussed nor yet fully. A library would hardly contain the data relative to the influence of mysticism. I have only attempted to show some of the reasons why upon the whole, mysticism has been an ill to man.

The keynote of our present life is progress. Progress to higher ideals and greater successes. There is a great swelling up of manliness in human hearts. To know of ills is to be free from them at last. All forms of servitude must go, and as Emerson has said, "Thought takes men out of servitude into freedom." Allow me to add the humble opinion that mysticism never will aid to this end.

NOTE.—Address the "Old Doc-

tor," care of C. Elton Blanchard, editor Current Thought, 802 Ansel Ave., Cleveland, O.

The Licensed Preacher.

By Rev. Old Mortality.

Now therefore hearken unto me, O ye children, for blessed are those that keep my ways.

Hear instruction and be wise, and refuse it not.—[Prov. viii. 32-33.]

My little ones, I have much to say unto you. You remember that some time ago I told you we had in this country 146 religious sects. And now another religious sect has lately sprung into existence in Chicago. This denomination which intends to blacken the eye of the devil and put out his fire that burns, and burns, and never consumes, calls itself the "Overcomers". But in order that you may fully understand the modus operandi of this new religious sect, I will read to you a late newspaper account of it. Now therefore hearken unto me.

"Chicago, Wednesday.—A great crowd of men, women and children are gathered in the house at 6003 Throop street, on the eve of the departure for the holy land, to be members of a strange community known as the "Overcomers", founded and presided over by "Mother" Spafford, at one time a resident of Chicago.

"Former members of the sect just returned from Jerusalem are now engaged in a fierce fight to prevent the departure of seventy new converts. The American colony in Jerusalem has taken up the battle against Mrs. Spafford and E. S. Wallace, United States consul at Jerusalem, has forwarded to the state department a report calling the attention of the authorities at Washington to the 'Overcomers'. 'Mother' Spafford endeavored to secure the dismissal of Wallace.

"According to one of the returned pilgrims, Mrs. John Adamson, the converts are forced to turn over all their worldly possessions to the Overcomers, and they then become menials in the community.

"Every night the house of the Overcomers is turned into a club house," said Mrs. Adamson. "The women, old and young, must dress in their best and appear in the saloon and make themselves agreeable. All marriage relations are broken up when man and wife join the Overcomers, in fact one is taught to hate father, mother, husband, wife and children. Smile and make yourselves agreeable to the young men, was the instruction I frequently heard Mother Spafford give to the girls and young women. The men frequently give the women costly presents, but it is always the younger and prettier who receive the gifts."

My Little Pets:—Perhaps these "overcomers" are not smart or intelligent enough to become Irish

policemen and in order to place themselves before the public, they thought best to establish a new religion. Times are hard and ready money is difficult to grasp. The saloon is overdone in this city by the lake. Our German brothers have long controlled the liquor traffic. Whilst our Irish cousins have for many years established themselves as the guardian angels of the old city that was destroyed by the lamp that the Irish lady's cow kicked over. Notwithstanding Chicago is a city of Irish policemen and German saloon keepers, it contains thousands of intelligent men and women, who were not born in the woods during the dark of the moon. This city, by the lake, is the most pushing and enterprising metropolis in America.

But what of the "Overcomers"? It is said that this religious sect is the result of Col. R. G. Ingersoll's frequent visits to Illinois. Our Christian brothers declare that when the Colonel lectures there is a great and mighty religious uprising and religion takes on a "wholesome boom". They say that should the Colonel live 40 years, this country will witness the Jew god of the Jewish fables, reclining at full length in our constitution.

When Rev. Mrs. Roxey Jane Mortality had read of the "overcomers" she immediately summoned the female members of this tabernacle to a private caucus at the parlors of the parsonage. Beautiful married women, handsome young ladies, and pretty little girls, not yet in their teens, hastened to the parsonage from all parts of my diocese. When Roxey had read to them the account of this new religious sect and told them the thousand and one benefits that they might derive from a religious body founded upon the same principles, the parsonage fairly shook with their shouts of joy and gladness.

When I heard these poor deluded females go wild over this newest and latest religion I cried aloud and said Oh! Lord if I had been in the garden of Eden five minutes before mother Eve climbed the apple tree, I would have smeared it over with bird lime and Eve would have been sticking half way up the tree even unto this day."

The day after this meeting I summoned your fathers and big brothers to meet me in the committee room of this tabernacle. When I told them all that I had heard at the parsonage they appeared to be quite angry, but finally they began to laugh, and at last they fell to and talked of the new religion in a favorable manner. By the time the meeting adjourned there were over fifty men who openly declared that they would withdraw from the Tabernacle, build a new church and become "Overcom-

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