



♀ MERCURY ♀

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May 22, MCMXVI

No. 10

The Next Stated Convocation of Metropolitan College
will be held in the Adytum, 310 Lenox Avenue
Friday Evening, May 26, 1916, at 8.00 precisely

Work: Regular Classes.

Astrological Class meets at 45 John Street, every Tuesday, at 8p.m. sharp
Latin class meets at 518 West 140th St. every Wednesday at 8 p.m.

Why the Rosicrucians are a Secret Order

"We of the Secret Knowledge," says Robert Fludd, "do wrap ourselves in mystery, to avoid the oburgation and importunity or violence of those who conceive that we cannot be philosophers unless we put our knowledge to some ordinary worldly use. There is scarcely one who thinks about us who does, not truly believe that our Society has no existence; because, as he truly declares, he has never met any of us. And he concludes that there is no such Brotherhood, because, in his vanity, we do not seek him to be our fellow."

"*Maidhood and virginity* is a phenomenon independent of creation, and bears through the worlds, visible, and invisible, the world's immortal, the impress and seal upon its forehead, of *God's Rest*, not of his *Activity*. Hence its sacredness in all religions and under all beliefs." In plainer speech, *Activity* is *Masculine*, and *Rest*, as its contrast is abstinence from production. *Nature* means "bringing forth." The Rosicrucians have always held that God is "supernatural," above the action and operation of Nature—beyond the Abyss, the ABSOLUTE. But supernatural in this usage does not mean unnatural, but beyond the known natural.

Age-old Mantrams

- "The mystery of Adam is the mystery of the Messiah" - Rabbis
- "The Ancient Logos puts the world as a garment" - Philo
- "Every one sees the body of the Sun, not one its Soul" Plato
- "Through ten words the world has been created" - - - Mishna
- "The mind-perceived Light existed before the Sun" - - Philo
- "I am done, who will follow to support my cause" - - Confucius

"In Greece every Stoic was a Stoic; but in Christendom, where is the Christian?" *R. W. Emerson.*

DISCIPLINI ARCANI. This is the name given to the secret ritual and practices of the primitive Christian Church. The necessities of the times, and the common principles of mysticism, caused the first Christians to veil the rites in secrecy. There were four degrees: 1, The Faithful, 2, The Enlightened, 3, The Initiated, 4, The Perfect. Cyril of Jerusalem considered baptism to be the exact equivalent of the initiatory rites of Isis, of Eleusis, of Samothrace, and of Phrygia.

Mercury uses the forms of spelling recommended by the Simplified Spelling Board.

No special sequence will be observed in this series of Paragraf Biographies. The order of publication will depend upon the Editor's facilities for securing proper portrait material.

Paragraf Biographies of Illustrious Initiates.

Number Ten.

J. B. and F. M. VAN HELMONT



From the "Oriatrike"

John Baptist van Helmont was born in Brussels in 1577. Like most of the medieval filosofers he began with the study of medicine, following the principles of Galen, but afterwards accepting the theories and teachings of Paracelsus. Van Helmont's knowledge was profound, and as an ardent admirer of a Kempis, he followed closely the "Imitation of Christ," practising medicine without fees of any sort. He achieved the "Filosofer's Stone," and successfully performed the transmutation operation on several occasions, without however, fully understanding the medicine employd. He was an activ worker in the Rosicrucian practices in Belgium. His deth occurd in 1644. He regarded water as the primary element out of which all things are produced, and to him is due, the word "gas," before his time all gases having been regarded

as simply different varieties of air.

FRANCIS MERCURIUS VAN HELMONT, the son of John Baptist, was born in 1618. He was a skilled chemist, and, while holding many curious theories, became a vigorous worker in the Brotherhood and achieved the Magnum Opus.

Notable Prayers, No. Four.

The PRAYER OF JESUS—"Oure father which arte in heaven, halowed be thy name. Lett thy kyngdome come. Thy will be fulfillet, even in erth as it is in heaven. Oure dayly breed geve vs this daye. And forgeve vs oure synnes; For even we forgeve every man that traspaseth vs, and ledde vs not into temptacion, Butt deliver vs from evyll, Amen.

Tyndale's Version, 1526

The Brethren of the Guosis

(An ancient description of the grades)

"To the Magi nothing is unknown, and they claim superiority and rank over all others, as did Moses, Aaron, Hermes, Solomon, the two Hiram, and others. To the Magistri are assigned the three principal sciences in a perfect degree. The Adepti Exempti are acquainted with the philosophic stone, commonly called the philosopher's stone; also with the Kaballah and natural magic. The Majores possess the *Lapidum Mineralem*, or magnet. The Minores are instructed in the nature of the philosophical sun, and therefore perform marvelous cures. The Philosophi are acquainted with botany, natural history and other branches of science. The Practici are inured to hardship, and find from other sources the essential forces in the form of coin, which governs any body of men. They are invested with a knowledge of chaos, not perhaps a very desirable acquisition. The Theoretici are engaged, like many others, in that frightful hunt symbolized in Der Freischutz, where the wild huntsman comes along—the realization of gold without labor. Of the Zelatores, it is only necessary to be said that they are learners, more or less diligent according to capacity. Of the Neophytes, we call them probationes "



1916



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Cel. Fr. Nahar	Asso. C.O.N.	Sr. Voluntas
Suff. Fr. Roscius	Aco	Fr. Firmus
Sec. Sr. Industrious	G.O.C.	Fr. Rescindo
Treas. Fr. Lincoln	Tr.	Fr. Studium

Organist and Precentor Fr. Largus

PRISCI

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Endorsed by Metropolitan College for those desiring personal astrological delineations.

Fr. Sustollo, Address Post Office Box 316 Madison Square.

Sr. Felicitas, Address Box 175 Gen. Post Office.

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The Secretary-General, Res., 518 W. 140th St., New York, Phone Audubon 8465.

DECLARATIO OBSEQUII

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