

## H. P. B. SETTLES IN EUROPE

WITH the departure of H. P. B. from India in 1885, necessarily the spiritual centre of the Movement was transferred to the West. Colonel Olcott was an organiser, but he was neither deeply philosophical nor capable of giving teaching on occultism. He confined himself to developing the Society by organising Branches. He also undertook to edit the *Theosophist* on H. P. B.'s departure. But the most vital part of the Movement, the spiritual forces which continually though invisibly attracted new workers to dedicate themselves to the great cause of Theosophy, were centred round H. P. B., and India for the time lost this priceless contribution.



FIG. 112

COUNTESS CONSTANCE WACHTMEISTER to the cause of Theosophy.

It was during H. P. B.'s residence at Wurzburg and Ostende, that there came to the Movement a very devoted worker in Countess Constance Wachtmeister (Fig. 112). She became utterly devoted to H. P. B., and after her death, to Mrs. Besant and her work. In her last years, however, she withdrew from association with the Movement. But in the early years of her activities, she was a most indefatigable worker, and devoted all she had of time and money



FIG. 113  
BERTRAM KEIGHTLEY



FIG. 114  
ARCHIBALD KEIGHTLEY



FIG. 115  
MRS. ANNIE BESANT IN 1878



FIG. 116  
MRS. ANNIE BESANT IN 1888

There also came as devoted adherents of H. P. B. two young men, Bertram Keightley (Fig. 113) and his cousin Dr. Archibald Keightley (Fig. 114). With these and a few others, a group was formed round H. P. B., which was not only loyal to her, but did their utmost by contributing to her physical comforts to make her life a little easier than it had been for many years. H. P. B.'s health was wretched, and she was continually under the care of doctors. Nevertheless, she continued her work on the *Secret Doctrine*.

In 1887 H. P. B., with her small but devoted band, settled in London, first in Norwood, and later at 17 Lansdowne Road, W. It was at this place that she was visited by one who was to play after her the next principal rôle in the Movement. This was Mrs. Annie Besant (Figs. 115 and 116.), who was famous then as a leader in Freethought with Charles Bradlaugh, and as a socialist, being one of the founding members of the Fabian Society. She was formally admitted a member of the T. S. on May 21, 1889. Others came and joined the band like G. R. S. Mead

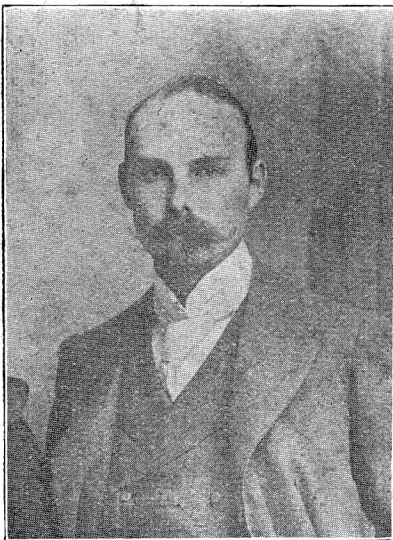


FIG. 117

G. R. S. MEAD



FIG. 118

LAURA COOPER  
(Mrs. G. R. S. Mead)

(Fig. 117), Laura Cooper, Claude F. Wright and W. R. Old and Herbert Burrows (Fig. 119). The T. S. now developed very rapidly in the West, with the presence of H. P. B. in Europe.

There was at this time in London only the "London Lodge of the Theosophical Society," with A. P. Sinnett as President. Mr. Sinnett differed strongly on some points from H. P. B. Her views and his were not the same regarding the purpose of the Theosophical Movement, and he was especially averse to bringing into the Society in England any who were not of the so-called upper classes. He held sincerely that greatest good could come to the Society only if it started from the upper and cultured ranks, and then filtered down to the masses, and that if large numbers of people came who did not have any standing "in society," they would be able to do little to further the cause of Theosophy in spite of their dedication. H. P. B. saw deeper into the needs of the Movement, and soon after her settling down in London, she organised the Blavatsky Lodge. This Lodge very quickly attracted all the most active

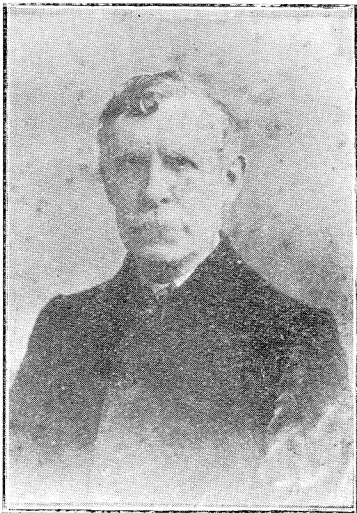


FIG. 119  
HERBERT BURROWS



FIG. 120  
MABEL COLLINS  
(Mrs. Kenningale Cook)



Theosophists in London, and they undertook a vigorous propaganda throughout the country. They attempted to "make Theosophy practical," and organised work not only for the cultured classes but also for the poor and ignorant in the east-end of London. Needless to say, the acquisition of Mrs. Besant was a tremendous help at this time.

A new magazine *Lucifer* was started by H. P. B., and she associated Mabel Collins with her as Assistant Editor. A short time afterwards, dissensions arose between H. P. B. and Mabel Collins, (Fig. 120), and the latter withdrew from the Society. But the Movement owes to Mabel Collins, or rather to that Master who gave His contribution through "M. C.," the Theosophical gem, *Light on the Path*, and the exquisite romance *The Idyll of the White Lotus*.

H. P. B.'s Headquarters were removed in 1890 to 19 Avenue Road, N. W., and as the work expanded quickly, the adjoining house, No. 17, was also taken. These two houses became the London Headquarters, a very powerful centre of inspiration while H. P. B. lived, and afterwards, so long as Mrs. Besant made them the centre.