

THE RITES OF ELEUSIS

By P.

" WE are the poets ! We are the children of wood and stream, of mist and mountain, of sun and wind ! We are the Greeks ! and to us the rites of Eleusis should open the doors of Heaven, and we shall enter in and see God face to face. . . .

" Under the stars will I go forth, my brothers, and drink of that lustral dew : I will return, my brothers, when I have seen God face to face and read within those eternal eyes the secret that shall make you free.

" Then will I choose you and test you and instruct you in the Mysteries of Eleusis, O ye brave hearts, and cool eyes, and trembling lips ! I will put a live coal upon your lips, and flowers upon your eyes, and a sword in your hearts, and ye also shall see God face to face.

" Thus shall we give back its youth to the world, for like tongues of triple flame we shall look upon the Great Deep. Hail unto the Lords of the Groves of Eleusis ! "

ALEISTER CROWLEY in *Eleusis*.

Aleister Crowley is the mouthpiece of a society, the object of which would seem to be the attaining of religious ecstasy by means of Ceremonial Magic.

Dr. Maudsley defines Ecstasy, or Samadhi, as a quasi-spasmodic standing-out of a special tract of the brain. W. R. Inge defines Ecstasy as a vision that proceeds from ourselves when conscious thought ceases. But however you may feel about Ecstasy there is no doubt that it is an essential part of true religious feeling. Crowley says : " True Ceremonial Magic is entirely directed to attain this end, and forms a magnificent gymnasium for those who are not already finished mental athletes." By act, word, and thought, both in quantity and quality, the one object of the ceremony is being constantly indicated. In order to induce this religious Ecstasy in its highest form Crowley proposes to hold a series of religious services, seven in number. These services are to be held at Caxton Hall, Westminster, S.W., and will be conducted by Aleister Crowley himself, assisted by other neophytes of the A. : A. : , the mystical society one of whose Mahatmas is responsible for the foundation of the *Equinox*. The seven services will be typical of Shakespeare's Seven Ages of Man, and each one will