

An Epidemic of Crazes.

Thousands of people of alleged culture in Europe and this country are studying what they call theosophy, and the tales they tell are enough to make the average sensible citizen stare and gasp.

It is almost incredible that educated persons in this matter-of-fact age should believe the yarns related by the theosophists, but they not only swallow these inventions but clamor for more. One of the leading cranks in this business is a certain Mr. Judge who has a good deal to say about Mahatmas. According to this expert, a Mahatma is a wise man who knows it all. He can control the elements at will by virtue of a power which has come to him through several thousand years of reincarnation. We meet Mahatmas frequently, but they give no sign and we pass them by without feeling the presence of such superior beings. One would suppose that they would perform their tricks oftener, but they are said to be so modest that they shun observation, and rarely put their mysterious power to a test.

After reading this stuff about Mahatmas, it is not surprising to find a number of religious reformers each claiming to be Christ, in various parts of the world. Illinois is afflicted with two—Schweinfurth and Dr. Cyrus Teed. The latter has boldly established headquarters in Chicago, and is pushing his work with so much vigor that it has been found necessary to arrest him. The Chicago Herald seriously discusses his imposture, and is very properly organizing public sentiment against him.

The bare statement of these fads and delusions will startle many who have paid little attention to such matters, and it is difficult to understand how in this enlightened era they can make such headway. Fortunately, they do not bother us to any extent down this way. When we run across a Mahatma, or an individual who claims to be Christ, we at once railroad him to jail or to the asylum. The southern way may be crude and inconsiderate, but it saves no end of trouble, and we commend it to our troubled friends in Illinois.