

**PRACTICAL OCCULTISM: A  
COURSE OF LECTURES  
THROUGH THE TRANCE  
MEDIUMSHIP OF J.J. MORSE**

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Practical Occultism: A Course of Lectures Through the Trance Mediumship of J.J. Morse by J. J. Morse

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## PROLEGOMENA.

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The educational and reformatory movement called Modern Spiritualism has, in its inherent many-sidedness, developed variant phases of expression and action. Coming in contact with individualities of almost every conceivable character, it has been variously interpreted and directed; and candor compels the assertion, that not at all times has the interpretation and direction given it been of the wisest and best. In some instances its facts and truths—fraught with such momentous consequence to humanity for good or ill, according to the manner of their use by those to whom they come—have been perverted to unwise or harmful ends and uses,—sometimes in ignorance, and at other times through conscious misapplication thereof for selfish or evil purposes.

One of the more conspicuous of these perversions—especially during the last decade—has been the growing tendency, on the part of a portion of the adherents of the Spiritual Philosophy, to introduce into that philosophy sundry elements pertaining to the mysticisms of ancient and modern times. Certain of the inspirational speakers, and others among the public workers for Spiritualism, together with many of its followers in the private walks of life, have been misled, to a greater or less degree, by the

current idealisms, transcendentalisms, and fanciful conceits, born of crude speculations and nurtured by spurious philosophies and pseudo-science. Sound philosophy and genuine science, while in accord with the demonstrated truths of Modern Spiritualism, have neither lot nor part in any of the mutually-antagonistic and ever-conflicting forms of mysticism with which the world has been and still is cursed; including all those phases thereof with which many have sought to encumber Spiritualism.

A rational, natural, healthy, progressive, scientific Spiritualism, at one with the spirit of the age, with the trend of the most advanced modern thought, must be wholly free from the degrading and soul-stultifying theses and dogmas of the mysticisms of the day; and until everything of the latter character be eliminated from the spiritual movement, it can never hope to obtain that respect and confidence of the intelligent, thoughtful men and women of our planet to which it will be justly entitled when its complete dissociation from its present perverting encumbrances becomes an accomplished fact.

Under the general head of speculative occultism may be classed all the mysticisms of the present age; and, in contradistinction thereto, the term "Practical Occultism" has been aptly chosen for a volume of inspirational lectures delivered by Mr. J. J. Morse, dealing with subjects of "great pith and moment" in a sound, clear, and eminently sensible manner. For nearly twenty years Mr. Morse has been a leading trance exponent of a common-sense, scientific, non-mystical Spiritualism,—free at all

times from the extravagances and perversions, the metaphysical idealisms, and the rhapsodical moonshine with which in some quarters the Spiritual Philosophy has been heavily burdened, to its sore detriment and disgrace.

Having had the pleasure of being present at the original delivery of the discourses composing this volume, I am enabled to understandingly and conscientiously commend them to the attention and study of all those interested in the topics treated; and who should not be? As the title of the work indicates, it will be found truly practical; being rich in instruction upon matters of deep import to all humanity. Its teachings concerning the Trance and Mediumship are pregnant with valuable instruction and judicious counsel. The true character of Magic, Sorcery, and Witchcraft in the light of an enlightened Spiritual Philosophy, devoid of present-day mysticisms, whether theosophic, occultic, or what not, is succinctly and graphically presented. The last three lessons will probably be found among the most interesting of the series, furnishing as they do a variety of information upon the states and conditions of the spirit world,—information much of it, I think, not generally known to the Spiritual public.

In my judgment, the lessons in this book, as a whole, are sound in doctrine; they are edifying and profitable in instruction; they are elevating and spiritualizing in tendency; and they are worthy the careful, thoughtful study of all.

WILLIAM EMMETTE COLEMAN.

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., December, 1887.





The following Lectures were reported by  
Mr. G. H. HAWES  
OF SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA.



## FIRST LECTURE.

### THE TRANCE AS THE DOORWAY TO THE OCCULT. ITS MAGNETIC, NATURAL, AND SPIRITUAL FORMS OF INDUCTION.

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Our topic is the "Trance as the Doorway to the Occult," dealing with it in its natural, magnetic, and spiritual methods of induction, and endeavoring, as a consequence, to show you what a wondrous and marvelous doorway into the unseen there is treasured within the life possibilities of all humanity; for we hold it as one of the cardinal principles of being, that the constitution of humanity at large is practically a unit in its character,—that there is no possibility pertaining to any one of the children of earth that is not also latent in all other of earth's children. The variousness of development, the peculiarities and idiosyncrasies of individual character, and the opportunities of exercise, alone constitute the differentiating conditions which give to one a seeming excess of development, and to another no apparent manifestation at all. But, by and by, in the progress of humanity, when the laws of being are more correctly and truly understood, it will be found how each and all of you, within the measure of your capacities, in accordance with your possibilities, and in relation to your requirements, will be

able to develop all the possibilities that are latent in humanity, collectively as well as individually. Then mystery, and all the results of ignorance and superstition, shall be banished from the pathway, and the unseen and spiritual life of man, with all its qualities and attributes, shall stand revealed as plainly and as clearly to the understanding as do your surroundings in the external universe to-day.

The Trance condition is the warrant of death and the prophecy of futurity; it is, in its revelation of the higher capacities of human nature, the measure and certain indication, the hand-post, as it were, upon the highway of eternal life, pointing to the mountains of wisdom, that lie, perhaps, still enshrouded by the mists of ignorance, and thereby concealed from the understanding of humanity to-day. We are aware that this is a great and somewhat startling claim, but yet we think the matters we are about to present will more than justify it; for you will bear in mind that if death be an impassable gulf over which the spirit can never return to mortality, there can be no sort of evidence presented in this world that can tell you what is upon the other side of that gulf. But if there can be a miniature representation of, or a correspondence to, that phenomenon which is called death, then there is a vindication of death, an interpretation of its issues, an explanation of its consequences; and if that miniature representation can be experienced by the individual and he return to human life and consciousness again, two ends are gained; first, the realization of an