

# THEOSOPHICAL WORK FOR CHILDREN

## THE GOLDEN CHAIN AND THE ROUND TABLE

WORK among children has centred chiefly in many countries in Lotus Circles and in the Golden Chain. The children repeat each morning the following prayer written by Dr. Annie Besant :

I am a link in the Golden Chain of Love that stretches around the world, and must keep my link bright and strong.

So I will try to be kind and gentle to every living thing I meet and to protect and help all who are weaker than myself.

And I will try to think pure and beautiful thoughts, to speak pure and beautiful words and to do pure and beautiful actions.

May every link in the Golden Chain become bright and strong.

For older children the Round Table is organised. It was founded in 1898 in London largely as the result of the weekly Lotus Circle at the London Headquarters, 19 Avenue Road, N. W., held by Mr. C. W. Leadbeater, with the enthusiastic co-operation of G. Herbert Whyte, Ethel Mallet and others. It is now a League of the Order of Service with its object "to gather together young folk to train them, to become, when grown-up, Helpers of the World". The idea developed further as time went on, and in 1912 the work was organised in Australia, where it has always been very active, and in New Zealand, France, Switzerland, Holland, Italy and America. The central aim is now stated as "Service of the King" and the key-note as self-discipline, on which the character of the Perfect Knight is based. During the War the Round Table continued to spread, although it lost heavily, and its Senior Knight, Lieut. G. Herbert Whyte, M. C., was killed near Jerusalem. Bishop Leadbeater took his place, and since then the international work has grown apace. Great attention has been paid to ceremonial and a ritual compiled based on the old tradition of chivalry, aiming at satisfying the need for self expression and devotional feeling among young people, so as to make the Round Table a real vehicle for youths' service.