

## MISCELLANEOUS.

### HINDU PRAYERS FOR PROF. MAX MÜLLER.

We learn with great relief from a personal letter that our dear friend and contributor Prof. Max Müller is making very satisfactory progress toward recovery from his recent severe illness. The Professor's world-wide reputation and the love in which he is held in Oriental countries is evidenced by the following quaint and characteristic communication from an old and learned Brahmin at Madras which we requote from *Literature*:

"When I saw the Professor was seriously ill, tears trickled down my cheeks unconsciously. When I told my friends who are spending the last days of their life with me, and read with me the *Bhagavad-gîtâ* and similar religious books, they were all very much over-powered with grief. Last night when we were all going to our temple as usual, it was suggested to me that we should have some special service performed by the temple priest for his complete restoration. All my friends followed me to the temple, but when we told the priest of our wish he raised various objections. He could not, he said, offer prayers and chant hymns in the name of one who is not a Hindu by birth, and, if he did so, he would be dismissed from the service, and excommunicated by his caste. We discussed the subject with him at length, and told him that Prof. Max Müller, though a European by birth and in garb, was virtually more than a Hindu. When some of my friends offered to pay him ample remuneration, he at last consented, and when the next day at eleven o'clock at night we came to the temple with cocoanuts, flowers, betel-leaves, nuts, and camphor, which we handed to the priest, he began to chant the Matras and offer prayers to God for about an hour or so. After everything was done, the priest returned to us some of our gifts, and requested that we should send them to Prof. Max Müller."

Such a service has never been performed before for an unbeliever, and it is a remarkable fact, and a decisive contribution to the theory of the efficacy of prayer, that according to *Literature* the Professor's recovery seems to have occurred simultaneously with the chanting of the Matras and the heartfelt offering up of the cocoanuts and the betel-leaves in India.

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### THE PSYCHOLOGY OF RELIGION.

*To the Editor of The Open Court:*

I send you a *questionnaire* which I have been using during the past year to gather material upon the Contents of Religious Consciousness. Although I meet