

MISCELLANEOUS.

ORIENTAL SAGES.

BY M. H. SIMPSON.

Six scholarly thinkers considered one day
The grouping in every possible way
Of Ego, Non-Ego, and Non;
Debating which word should be first of the three,
And what the most obvious meaning might be
Of Ego, Non-Ego and Non.

'Tis "Not Not-Self, but Self alone,"
Said Number One sedately.
'Tis "Not-Self is, and Self is Not,"
The second answered straightly.
'Tis, "Neither Self nor Not-Self is,"
Submitted Number Three;
But "Self to Not-Self is as Naught,"
Cried Number Four, "for me."
Yet "Not-Self is to Self as Naught,"
Cried Five, "is just as good."
"The Self is Not-Self, yet 'tis not,"
The sixth had understood.

And then a seventh joined the group,
Who solemnly averred
The separate form, "Self, Not-Self, Not,"
Was much to be preferred;
For they, he said, the factors were
Of every combination,
And naturally moved around
In ceaseless permutation.

And every thinker much admired
The thoughts of all the rest,
While each within his secret soul
Esteemed his own the best.