

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE—Continued

and sin and their effects upon the body may be destroyed. The average person learning of Christian Science as a metaphysical method, is apt also to confuse it with so-called mental methods more or less prevalent today, but Christian Science is unlike them all. It involves no such thing as suggestion or the exercise of the human will or hypnotism or mesmerism, or the use of formulae. It shows that all these methods may as readily be used for evil purposes as for good, which proves that they are neither Christ-like nor scientific. The power of Christian Science lies in the fact that it is the Christ method, whereby the influence of the divine Mind is recognized and employed as the only power. It ought not to be so difficult to learn something of the influence of thought upon the body, since this may be observed at almost any time. Fear, which is thought, will cause a person to turn pale. Anger will make him flush, and if he come suddenly upon something which he dreads, his heart will beat rapidly and unnaturally. These are all physical effects produced by thought. Suppose a child were born under the conditions of fear which so often surround mortals, and suppose the conditions were more or less continuous. Growing up in that way, perhaps its heart would always be beating unnaturally, and after awhile, if examined by materia medica, the verdict might be, "Poor fellow, it's all up with him; he's got heart disease." Suppose at this juncture that the case should fall into the hands of a Christian Science practitioner, as extreme so-called fatal cases so often do. The practitioner, employing Christian Science, would get at the root of the trouble. That's what Christian Science does, and learning of the cause of the suffering, he would through the righteous prayer of Christian Science begin to eliminate that cause and all memory of the fear, and the fear being removed, the patient's heart would become normal. There are thousands of normal hearts, brains and other bodily organs in the world today because Christian Science has made them so. A slight indication is thus given of the nature of disease and the means of healing it, but those who would gain a full understanding should seek it in the pages of the Christian text-book, for Mrs. Eddy has therein analyzed completely the cause of human suffering, and her book stands alone in this respect, as well as in the rules for treating disease metaphysically.

THE DISCOVERER AND FOUNDER OF CHRISTIAN SCIENCE—The world is somewhat accustomed to Christian Science today, and it is a welcome subject in many circles, and its wonderful and blessed achievements are generally acknowledged, but there was a time when Mrs. Eddy was the only Christian Scientist on earth, when she stood absolutely alone with God before the whole world and incurred the ridicule of ignorance and the hostility of theoretical forms of religion and material modes of medicine because of her discovery of Christian Science. No hope of material reward, no worldly ambition, could have touched or tainted the consciousness of the one whose thought was high and pure enough to discover Christian Science, fraught with divine possibilities of infinite blessings for mankind. Mrs. Eddy knew that the Christ method had appeared to her. On page 108 of her book, Science and Health with Cey to the Scriptures, she speaks of this particularly. She knew that it had come to her through no selfish desire, but through striving to be good and to do good. That this spiritual light should appear to her was unquestionably a God-given privilege, but it entailed untold sacrifice and self-abnegation, for not otherwise could it be made available to suffering and sinful humanity.

Is this discovery less in the nature of true science than systems which are usually associated with that word because it deals purely with thought and involves righteousness? Nay, is it not more in the nature of science or truth because of those facts? We respect, admire, and revere the great scientific discoverers of the world, such men as Newton and Franklin and hundreds of others, and we do well in that, yet their discoveries relate to the material world and to laws deduced from the observance of its phenomena. If we respect these discoveries, what shall we say of the discoverer of that which relates to the truth of Being and to the spiritual, primary and natural law of health and harmony? If we speak of material discoveries as great, who shall be able to employ a word to inadequately describe the discovery of Christian Science? Even the thousands who have experienced its beneficent influence, who have come out of sorrow and disease and great tribulation realize but faintly the might, majesty and power which have come to earth through the blessed teachings of Mrs. Eddy. Few even of the beneficiaries of Christian Science realize what it has meant for Mrs. Eddy to be the discoverer and founder of Christian Science and the Leader of this great movement. With humility, strength, and persistence born of the Christ spirit, Mrs. Eddy has iterated and reiterated that the highest way is the only way whereby mankind can gain harmony, the true basis of health and satisfaction. She has indicated the pure, unadulterated Christ way and has stood for it in face of all contumely and in spite of the resistance which evil ever offers to good, and she still stands, a figure unique in the history of modern times.

CONCLUSION—Friends, even such a brief consideration of Christian Science as is to be obtained through a lecture upon the subject reveals to every listener something of the power of true thought which has its origin in God, Good, the divine Mind. Recognizing such influences and its possibilities, both individual and universal, it behooves everyone to make it practical. Mere passive belief would accomplish nothing since it is not in any way illustrative of the science which we are considering. If truth is asserting itself and is denying all error, or evil, then the active power of Christian Science is proven, for we are establishing within ourselves the government of Good, thereby it shall eventually appear on earth. "Perhaps," one says, "this idealism," and the answer is, "Truly, idealism," but we should remember that the ideals of humanity indicate the facts of divinity though they are, as yet, all too poor to represent them. Truth transcends all human conceptions. It is not only to say that Christian Science is beautiful in teaching would be but to inadequately understand what its presence means to mankind. Music is beautiful, painting, sculpture, and all the arts are beautiful. Think of the wonderful landscapes in which our country abounds! Think of these autumn days; what beauty in the changing leaves! Think of the Western sky all aglow with the light of the setting sun! How beautiful! But have any of these beautiful things ever saved you? Have they satisfied the longing of the heart? Have they healed your diseases, or assuaged your sorrows? No, and none of them can do so, but Christian Science can. It is not only beautiful, but practical. Christian Scientists are taught to lovingly regard mankind, and as they see all the sorrow and sickness and suffering, want and worry and woe; see conflict between various classes of society; man's inhumanity to man, and the greed for gold, and knowing that Christian Science offers deliverance from all this,

is it any wonder that they often think in great compassion of these words of the old hymn:

O, ye beneath life's crushing load,
Whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way
With painful steps and slow,
Look now, for glad and golden hours
Come swiftly on the wing.
O, rest beside the weary road
And hear the angels sing.

The Bible says: "There shall be no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling. For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways." Our text-book Science and health with key to Scriptures by Mary Baker G. Eddy p. 581 thus defines angels, "God's thoughts passing to man; spiritual intuitions, pure and perfect." These are the angels to keep thee in all thy ways.

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