

### A Lecture on Christian Science

Delivered Last Evening in the Star Theater by James Randall Dunn, C. S. B. Member of the Board of Lectureship of the Mother Church, the First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston, Mass.

is able to keep his children. The mother looked at the child's eyes and they were healed." (The Life of Mary Baker Eddy by Miss Wilbur, p. 76.)

The Discovery of Christian Science It can be seen plainly that the idea of Christian healing had been budding through Mrs. Eddy's earthly experience, and therefore it was perfectly natural years after, when she found herself near the gates of death, again to turn her thoughts towards spiritual aid. She called for her Bible and opened to the ninth chapter, of Matthew. As she read the story of the healing of the man sick of the palsy, the great truth for which she had been searching all her life began to dawn upon her thought. She began to touch the hem of the garment of the healing Christ, and to glimpse the answer to the age-old question, "What is truth?" In that glorious moment, and in the months and years of consecrated searching and praying that followed, there was unfolded to Mrs. Eddy Jesus' method of healing, what Jesus must have thought and understood and practiced. In proof of this she not only found herself well, but with this understanding she was able to heal others. In fact, many of Mrs. Eddy's demonstrations of healing are as remarkable as those which are recorded in the Acts of the Apostles. Of such healings she speaks in her writings very briefly and modestly, but we find that cancer, consumption, hip disease, insanity, the morphine and opium habits, and many other forms of sin and sickness all went down speedily before her realization of the might and glory of the Word of God.

The Christian Science Textbook. Then she set about sharing with the world her discovery, and in the textbook, "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures," and in what are now called her lesser writings, we find revealed the Science by which Jesus, the apostles and the prophets unquestionably did their mighty

works. The best Christian Science lecture that could possibly be delivered would consist simply in reading to you from these inspired books; but in the Bible and Mrs. Eddy's writings should be studied, pondered, and prayed over rather than given only the hasty consideration possible in the few moments allotted for this lecture. If any who listen to this message are led to become sincere students of these God-inspired writings, our time today will have been well spent; for the man, woman, or child who is willing to study Mrs. Eddy's works and begin to put into practice the truths he learns therein, stands indeed at the threshold of a new life. In Science and Health (p. 224) we read "A higher and more practical Christianity, demonstrating justice and meeting the needs of mortals in sickness and in health, stands at the door of this age, knocking for admission. Will you open or close the door upon this angelic visitant, who cometh in the guise of meekness, as he came of old to the patriarch at noon-day?"

The Christian Science Practitioner "But," may say some one at this point, "I know of a case that Christian Science did not cure. How do you account for that?" The textbook gives the answer very simply and directly, it says: "If you fail to succeed in any case, it is because you have not demonstrated the life of Christ. The more in your own life—because you have not obeyed the rule and proved the Principle of divine Science." (p. 149). Christian Scientists admit with regret—but not discouragement,

methods and predicting disaster. A rather unthinkable picture, is it not? And yet, this very thing happens in thousands of instances daily when some earnest Christian Scientist attempts the work of reason for a shipwrecked brother or sister. Material medicine scoffs, old theology huris its sneer and shrug their shoulders; and, in spite of all this, the sick and ailing and heart-broken are being rescued in ever-increasing numbers. What glorious quick-healing work may we expect to see with increased consecration on the part of practitioner and patient, and a lessened hatred and refusal to do better work in the future.

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Many people gathered last evening in the Star theatre to hear a Christian Science lecture entitled, "Christian Science: The Solution of the World's Problems," by James Randall Dunn, C. S. B. The lecture in brief follows: You have noticed many times, without doubt, a certain inscription over exits from buildings and cars which reads: "This Way Out." Often have I wished that I might write below this the words "Christian Science," for every student of this great subject realizes more and more that the understanding and practical application of the Science of Christianity affords the only definite way out of the many problems which confront and perplex humanity today.

Nineteen centuries ago the great Teacher of Nazareth pointed the way out of human discord, and rightfully has ever since been called "The Wayshower." But have mortals really accepted Jesus as the practical Wayshower out of aught but sin? Have they looked on him as the greatest healer of disease that the world has ever known? Have they realized that on the shores of the Galilean lake were given scientific rules which, when put into operation, would solve here and now the knotty problems of human existence, of capital and labor, of supply and demand, problems of men and of nations? In a word, have mortals been turning naturally to the teachings of Jesus to find present-day salvation from evil?

Present-Day Salvation. If a bit of personal reminiscence is permissible, I would say that our family, though conscientious church-goers always, never supposed their sense of Christianity capable of supplanting their quinine and calomel in a case of sickness. Such a thought would have been labeled speedily as far-fetched and not common sense. Quite unconsciously, I am sure, we exemplified the sentiment of the man who said that religion was an excellent thing if not carried too far, and was not allowed to interfere with the practical affairs of life! But because we did not carry our religion far enough and allow it to permeate the innermost details of daily experience, we encountered seemingly unsolvable problems of sickness, of lack, and other forms of inharmonious. It was not an uncommon sight to see a member of our family return from church, go promptly to bed, and call for some strong medicine to enable her to overcome a severe headache caused by overwrought emotions. We knew not in those days that emotionalism was the product of the carnal mind, and not of the divine Mind, and that the simple, sweet message of Christ Jesus should heal headaches and still the turbulent emotions. In fact, the good news brought by Christian Science to a suffering world is that a scientific understanding of the teachings of Jesus of Nazareth can begin this very day to untangle our snarls and find answers to our many human problems; that Christianity must not only save men from a future hell but from a present hell—the hell of sickness, lack, fear, hate, and all its unlovely associates that heaven, the reign of harmony, is possible in ever-increasing degree here and now.

An Instance of Jesus' Healing. Let us consider for a moment one of the many examples given us in the Scriptures of Jesus' simple, and yet to our sense marvelous handling of a problem of sickness. Take one of his early healings in Luke's gospel. He is besought to help the mother of Simon's wife, who is seemingly gravely ill. Apparently the Master makes no inquiries as to the symptoms, does not ask for the cause of the malady, nor does he desire to take her temperature nor feel her pulse. Let us see what happened, as recorded by Luke. "And he stood over her, and rebuked the fever; and it left her, and immediately she arose and ministered unto them." There was no period of convalescence, no gradual abating of the fever, nor slow recovery of strength, and the great Healer did not caution her about her diet and warn her not to eat too much. "Immediately she arose and ministered unto them." In the records of his four thousand years' ministry cannot find such an astounding cure of fever wrought through any of its material methods. And yet Christ Jesus did not one material thing. He rebuked the fever—the fever, please notice, and not the woman. Now a word is only the audible expression of a thought; hence that which brought about this remarkable healing was wholly mental—in other words, it was something which the Master thought or understood.

How Did Jesus Heal the Sick? This mighty understanding we see rebuking insect spirits, healing epilepsy and all manner of disease; we see it stilling storms; enable Jesus to walk on the water; to feed the multitude, and even to raise the dead. Perhaps the saddest and most grievous error which the thinking of the material is the relinquishing of these demonstrations of Jesus' control over evil and materiality to the realm of the miraculous. Theology excuses its failure to do these works on the ground that Jesus was God, and his acts standing the fact that the Master plainly said that of himself he could do nothing, that it was the Father dwelling in him that did the works, and that those who truly believed on him (understood him) would be able to do the things that he did and

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