

For the Torch of Reason.

Eddyism, or Christian Science.

BY MRS. M. M. TURNER.

Mrs. Eddy uses the term science, seemingly not knowing what science is. She does not appear to recognize the fact that that which is based on assertion alone has no claim to be called science.

The cardinal doctrine of Christian Science, according to Mrs. Eddy, "is that the soul (whatever that may be), through the power of God, triumphs over sickness and death."

In her book, "Science and Health," Mrs. Eddy says: The fundamental principles of Christian Science are summarized in the four following, to me, evident, propositions. Even if read backwards, these propositions will be found to agree in statement and proof: 1st, God is all in all; 2d, God is good. God is mind; 3d, God, Spirit, being all, nothing is matter; 4th, Life, God, Omnipotent Good deny death, evil, sin, disease; disease, sin, evil, death deny Good Omnipotent, God, Life.

"Medicine is not a science, but a bundle of speculative human theories. . . . The rule and its perfection of operation in my system never vary. If you fail to succeed in any case, it is because you have not obeyed the rule or proved the principle of Christian Science.

"If God created drugs at all and designed them for medical use, why did not Jesus employ them and recommend them for the treatment of disease?"

"Drugs, cataplasms and whisky are stupid substitutes for the dignity and potency of Divine Mind and its power to heal.

"The idols of civilization are far more fatal to health and longevity than the idols of barbarism. The Esquimaux restore health by incantations as effectually as civilized practitioners by their more studied methods. Is civilization only a higher form of idolatry that man should bow down to a flesh-brush, to flannel, to baths, diet, exercise and air? When there are fewer doctors, and less thought is given to sanitary methods, there will be better constitutions and less disease." This doctrine ought to be brought to the bar of reason and science.

"Never record ages. Minute chronological data are no part of the vast forever. . . . But for the error of limiting and measuring all that is good and beautiful, we should enjoy more than threescore years. We will continue to be always beautiful and grand when mortal mind so decrees. . . . Life is eternal. Beauty and goodness are immortal.

"Jesus of Nazareth was the most scientific man that ever trod the globe. He plunged beneath the

material surface of things and found their spiritual cause."

The disciples whom Jesus "sent forth by two and two and gave them power over unclean spirits went out and preached; they cast out many devils and annointed with oil many that were sick, and healed them."

One who was deaf and had an impediment in his speech was brought to Jesus, "who took him aside and put his fingers in his ears, and he spit and touched his tongue . . . his ears were opened and his tongue loosened."

Jesus "took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the town; and when he had spit on his eyes and put his hands upon him . . . he was restored to sight."

"As Jesus passed by he saw a man who was blind from his birth. . . . When he had spoken, he spat on the ground and made clay of the spittle, and he annointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay."

Might not some drugs be as efficacious as spit, clay and oil? Such texts are, presumably, the authority for many horrible concoctions used by the ignorant as remedies.

Mrs. Eddy says: The Jews, who sought to kill the man of God, showed plainly that their material views were the parents of their wicked deeds. To such materialists, the body which they laid in the sepulchre seemed to be substance.

St. Luke, 24:39: Behold my

hands and feet, that it is I myself; handle me and see, for a spirit hath not flesh or bone as ye see me have, said the risen Christ.

The Episcopal church teaches that, having been crucified, Christ rose again from death and took again his body with flesh and bones and all things pertaining to the perfection of man's nature." Mrs. Eddy seems to think she knows better than the Episcopal church, or Christ himself, as to the nature of his body.

Theories such as Mrs. Eddy's and others are the natural weedy growth of a superstition which is itself the resultant of the fear and ignorance of the dark ages.

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