

## Christian Science a Make-Believe Philosophy

By Rev. George H. Bennett.

The passing centuries have witnessed the rise and fall of many philosophies, and the coming and going of many leaders in human thought. The twentieth century has seen the advent of a unique system of doctrine—physical, metaphysical, and religious, called by its founder, Christian Science.

It has heretofore been the method of scientists and philosophers to observe the facts of nature and of history, and formulate laws and principles in harmony with the facts. Mrs. Eddy, however, has departed from the old-time method, and has given the philosophical world something unheard of among the learned—she has given to the elements of time and eternity, morals and physics, some new and unheard-of definitions. Upon these new definitions of the elements and factors in the moral and physical kingdoms, Mrs. Eddy has formulated her philosophy. Most of her definitions are widely different from those of modern scientists and metaphysicians. This fact, however, is immaterial to Mrs. Eddy. She proceeds to build her system of philosophy upon her definitions, just as though they are true to fact; and then she flaunts her make-believe system of philosophy before the world, just as though it were really true.

Mrs. Eddy's doctrine of Christian Science, at best, is but a make-believe system of truth. If she took herself seriously, she was laboring under the delusion that she had made a great discovery, and was destined to found a new system of philosophy, to revolutionize human thought. Her definitions, and her reasonings, and her conclusions all remind us of children at play. Children at play will assume such names as Queen Victoria, General Grant, Madam Patti and Andrew Carnegie. They will assume their play-house is a palace on the Hudson; and their clothes are royal robes, bedecked with jewels. They will assume their soap boxes and broom handles are automobiles and steam yachts; and their crackers and cheese are the luxuries of the millionaire. We are all familiar with such child's play.

Mrs. Eddy's system of philosophy, at best, is but child's play. It is not in its definitions true to fact or history. Its reasonings are childish. Its conclusions are absurd. It is only a make-believe philosophy. Look at some of her definitions:

"Matter has no life, hence it has no real existence." (p. 584). The physicist teaches in our schools that the kingdom of matter in this world comprises 78 chemical elements. These elements have a great variety of properties. That they exist is demonstrable. The change in the form and condition of iron, wrought by the application of force to it, is a demonstration of the existence of the iron. But Mrs. Eddy tells us matter has no existence, because it has no life. This is illogical and false. If she had said: "Matter has no life, hence it is inert," she would have stated a truth recognized by the scientific world. The five senses testify to our consciousness that matter has real existence—and only an ignorant or insane mind, mind ever soberly denies the testimony of the five senses—unless, perchance, for humorous reasons, it is engaged in make-believe and child's play.

Man is given a peculiar position in Mrs. Eddy's philosophy. She says (page 466) "Soul or spirit signifies deity and nothing else. There is no finite soul nor spirit." Here she denies the personal being and entity of the human soul ego. But do you exist? How may you know? Here is the proof: "I think, therefore, I am." You must exist before you can think. Further, she says: "Man is not God and God is not man" (page 480). Now, if there be no finite soul nor spirit, and if man is not God and God is not man, then what is man? Here is her answer: "Man is not matter, he is not made up of blood, brain, bones, and other material elements." And here she contradicts Jesus, for He said, "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the spirit is spirit." So Jesus teaches that man consists of both matter and spirit.

She completes her definition of man by saying: "Man is spiritual and perfect; and because he is spiritual and perfect, he must be so understood in Christian Science. Man is idea, the image of love; he is not physique. He is the compound idea of God, including all right ideas; the generic term for all that reflects God's image and likeness; the conscious identity of being as found in science, in which man is the reflection of God, or mind, and therefore is eternal; that which has no separate mind from God." (page 475). In all this verbosity Mrs. Eddy endeavors to tell us that man is not a soul or spirit, but is only an idea. She would have us believe man has no soul or body, and "no separate mind from God." And this is the author's wonderful discovery. Mrs. Eddy clearly contradicts the scriptures in all this, for Genesis says, "And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul."

Mrs. Eddy denies christianity as "Science." She defines the corporeal senses as "Error." Many are the things which she defines under the term "Mortal Mind." Among them are, matter, animal magnetism, hypnotism, sick and sinful humanity; it includes the untrue and unreal such

as depravity, evil beliefs, passions and appetites, fear, depraved will, self-justification, pride, envy, physical force, deceit, hatred, revenge, sin, sickness and death. These definitions should be remembered when her book is read.

Mrs. Eddy defines God as "Substance," (page 468). She also makes God synonymous with Mind, Soul, Spirit, Good, Truth, Principle, Deity, Love, Light, Intelligence. These are by her spelled with a capital letter. Note this, as it will assist in perceiving her jurglery of words.

It will be quickly discovered, even by a casual and unprejudiced student, that Mrs. Eddy has involved her teachings in all the confusion and with all the cunning of an insane mind. Here is an example: "There is no pain in Truth (God) and no truth in pain. There is no nerve in Mind (God) and no mind in nerve. There is no matter in Mind (God) and no mind in matter. There is no matter in Life (God) and no life in matter." (page 113). The words in parenthesis here are mine and are the synonyms. Here she cunningly juggles with words such as Life and life, and with all this deception calls it "Divine metaphysics."

Consider some of her "truths." Consider them carefully:

"Truth makes no laws to regulate sin, sickness and death, for these are unknown to Truth, and should not be recognized as reality." (page 184).

The term Truth means God. Mrs. Eddy forgot the ten commandments were given by God to regulate sin. She forgot that "The Lord struck the child that Uriah's wife bare unto David, and it was very sick." She said so infatuated that she forgot God said, "Dust thou art and unto dust, shalt thou return."

"What is termed disease does not exist. It is neither mind nor matter" (page 188). Disease is however a condition of mind or matter. Sickness, rage, weakness, pain, consumption, lathsome disease, mutilation, dropsy, wounds, lameness, sunstroke, blindness, fever, palsy, insanity, pestilence, and leprosy are all mentioned in the scriptures as being real. Christ healed many of these disorders. Mrs. Eddy flatly denies the scriptures when she says "disease does not exist."

"Nerves have no more sensation, apart from what belief bestows upon them, than the fibres of a plant." (488) Sensation is a fact of universal human experience and is recognized by children and adults who know nothing about nerves, and who have no beliefs on the subject of nerves.

"Heat would pass as painless from the body as gas dissipates into the air when it evaporates but for the belief that inflammation and pain must accompany the separation of heat from the body." (page 375). This is the vagary of an unbalanced mind. Heat does pass painlessly from the body. Gas does not evaporate. No sane mind believes that inflammation and pain must accompany the separation of heat from the body.

"Man is incapable of sin, sickness, and death" (page 475). This is a flat contradiction of the scriptures, and of human experience. Jesus said, "I go away, and ye shall seek me, and shall die in your sin; Whither I go ye cannot come." And again, "I said therefore unto you that we shall die in your sins; for except ye believe that I am He, ye shall die in your sins." And again, "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered the world, and death by sin, and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned." Note also the sicknesses that followed Israel as a consequence of sin: "I will even appoint over you terror, consumption, and the burning agues, that shall consume the eyes, and cause sorrow of heart."

"Evil can have no place where all space is filled with God" (page 469). Evil, which is an act and also a relation does not "fill" space.

The knowledge that brain-lobes cannot kill a man or affect the functions of mind would prevent the brain from becoming diseased" (page 386). And still some people consider Mrs. Eddy a brilliant philosopher. Brain-lobes by their form and condition do affect the functions of mind. The brain often becomes diseased in spite of knowledge and beliefs.

"Inharmony would make matter the cause as well as the effect of intelligence or Soul (God), thus attempting to separate Mind (God) from God." The words in parenthesis are mine. How sane this reasoning is; Inharmony makes matter the cause and effect of God, thus attempting to separate God from God.

"Evil is but an illusion and has no real basis" (page 480). Acting on this theory, suppose you walk into the bank tomorrow with a sack and proceed to carry off a bushel of coins and greenbacks. If you are not shot full of unreal holes by an unreal pistol, in the unreal hands of the unreal banker, you would be speedily seized by the unreal sheriff and hustled off to the unreal jail, to be tried later in the unreal court by an unreal jury; to land at last in a very real penitentiary, and when you found yourself wearing the stripes, locked behind steel bars, within high walls, and deprived of liberty—the change in your condition would quickly convince you that sin and courts and prisons are real.

"If sin, sickness, and death were understood as nothingness, they would disappear" (page 480). The falsity of this is seen in the fact that Christian Scientists are sinners, fall sick, and

die, in spite of their labored efforts to believe sin, sickness and death are "nothingness."

"Drugs and hygiene oppose the supremacy of the divine mind. Drugs and inert matter are unconscious, mindless. Certain results supposed to proceed from drugs are really caused by the faith in them which the false human consciousness is educated to feel" (page 484). Mrs. Eddy contradicts Jesus again: "And Jesus answering, said unto them, 'they that are whole need not a physician, but they that are sick.'" Mrs. Eddy contradicts Moses: "and he made the holy anointing oil, and the pure incense of sweet spices, according to the work of the apothecary." Mrs. Eddy also contradicts Isaiah: "For Isaiah had said, let them take a lump of figs, and lay it for a plaster upon the boil, and he shall recover."

"The belief that life can be in matter or soul in body, and that man springs from dust or from an egg, is the result of the mortal error which Christ or Truth destroys" (page 485). Read this: "For the life of the flesh is in the blood; and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh the atonement by reason of the life." Lev. 17:11.

"When you can waken yourself or others out of the belief that all must die, you can then exercise Jesus' spiritual power to reproduce the presence of those who have thought they died—but not otherwise" (page 75). By the way, what has become of Mrs. Eddy? Is she dead and buried—or did she only think she died?

"Jesus said of Lazarus: 'Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go that I may awake him out of sleep.' Jesus restored Lazarus by the understanding that Lazarus had never died, not by an admission that his body had died and then lived again. Had Jesus believed that Lazarus had lived or died in his body, the Master would have stood on the same plane of belief as those who buried the body, and he could not have resuscitated him" (page 75). If Mrs. Eddy had read her New Testament she would have found, "Jesus said unto them plainly, Lazarus is dead." Jesus found Lazarus dead, he believed him dead, and he raised him from the dead.

"Not because of muscular exercise, but by reason of the blacksmith's faith in exercise, his arm becomes stronger." On the contrary the blacksmith may utterly disbelieve exercise will enlarge his muscles, nevertheless, with exercise his muscles enlarge and become stronger.

"If matter were the cause of action, and if muscle, without volition of mortal mind, could fire the hammer and strike the anvil, it might be thought true that hammering would enlarge the muscles." And this is divine physics. If matter were the cause of action, why should hammering enlarge the muscles, more than if mind were the cause of action? Nonsense.

"The trip-hammer is not increased in size by exercise. Why not? Since muscles are as material as wood and iron? Because nobody believes that kind is producing such a result on the hammer" (page 198-9). And yet some persons believe Mrs. Eddy was inspired.

But notice this: "If from an injury or from any cause, a Christian Scientist were seized with pain so violent that he could not treat himself mentally—the sufferer should call a surgeon, who would give him a hypodermic injection" (page 464). When we read this we hoped Mrs. Eddy was returning to a state of sanity. She gives the laugh and the lie to all her vapors on the subject of sickness and suffering.

But now we reach the milk in the cocoanut: "A thorough perusal of the author's publications heals sickness" (page 446). Ha! ha! But "man is incapable of sin, sickness and death." What?

The foregoing quotations are taken from Mrs. Eddy's book "Science and Health," of the edition of 1912. They are bright and shining examples of her physics, metaphysics and theology. Did you know "Science and Health" contained such dogmas? And are you ready to subscribe to such make-believe philosophy as worthy of serious consideration and belief?

It is very doubtful if Mrs. Eddy in all her brain-storms really knew just what she was trying to teach. She certainly could not state it in a coherent manner. Here we present her fundamental teachings:

1. God is the only real existence.
2. Matter has no real existence.
3. Man has no objective existence, but is merely God's idea.
4. The universe, with its myriad forms of life and being and activity, has not objective existence, but exists subjectively in human minds as mere ideas. This is certain, for she says, "Matter is but an image of mortal mind" (page 118), and further, "The physical universe expresses the conscious and unconscious thoughts of mortals" (page 484).

Like other demented minds, Mrs. Eddy was haunted by a terrible bugaboo. It appears on nearly every page of her book. It was the dreadful thought, that mind inheres in matter, and it was her life's mission to destroy this dreadful heresy. This halucination followed her constantly. She did not know, that, while there is a materialism which is false, there is also a materialism which is true. She was not aware that six great laws are operative in the universe: The laws of action of being, and of relation, in morals; and the laws of action, of being, and of relation, in physics. Her denial of the soul, and of sin, totally annuls the biblical doctrines of redemption in Christ; but this fact makes her popular with the worldly minded ones.

She was infatuated with the delusion that she was a great philosopher, and was destined to found a new and revolutionizing system of truth.

That Mrs. Eddy was deluded is clear from the fact that she totally ignored the plainest facts of every-day experience, the events of history, and the clearest declarations of scripture, concerning God and man, life and death, sin and pain.

Her methods of reasoning, her logic, the like of which was never seen before; her meaningless passages, her ludicrous assertions made with the most pompous show of profundity, and her ridiculous conclusions unmistakably stamp "Science and Health," either as a master-piece of make-believe philosophy—or as a collection of vapors produced by an unbalanced mind.

It must be remembered, only an ignorant or insane mind ever soberly denies the testimony of the five senses and the reason, unless, perchance, that person is engaged in humorous make-believe, or child's play.

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