

# OVER 850 PEOPLE HEARD WILLIS F. GROSS LECTURE UPON CHRISTIAN SCIENCE LAST NIGHT

Willis F. Gross, member of the board of lecturers of the Mother Church, The First Church of Christ Science, in Boston, Mass., lectured on Christian Science at Paze Theater last evening. Mayor M. Purdin in introducing the lecturer said in part:

"A good many of you, like myself, probably know very little about Christian Science, and likely all of us would know more if we attended their meetings more than we do and would be greatly benefited by the things we would learn in attending the meetings.

"I have made some little investigations along the line taught, and while I am not able to speak with full knowledge, one thing impresses me very much, and that is the profound peace that seems to fill the lives of those who believe and practice the doctrines taught. They seem to be above and away from the petty trials and troubles that vex the lives of some of us on the outside, and for that reason if for none other it would seem to be good for all of us.

"Those of us who believe the New Testament must be convinced that the Master, when on earth, performed many acts of healing the sick, and that His Disciples had the power to do those things, but some where in the dark and gloomy days of a gray and hoary antiquity this power was lost, or if not lost, was permitted to fall into disuse until in the days of the nineteenth century it was again called into use and proclaimed to the world by Mrs. Eddy, and has since been practiced by her followers.

"While some of us know but little about this subject, yet we are all willing to learn, at least I am, and for that purpose am here tonight to listen to one who does know about this subject, and who will doubtless explain many things that to us seem beyond our knowledge."

Mr. Gross said:

When one considers the multifarious beliefs of mortals, the great diversity of human opinions, and the many unhappy experiences resulting from wrong thinking and evil doing, he realizes to some extent how great is the need for a definite starting point and a readily comprehended method of procedure in the working out of life's problems. As the mariner considers a compass a necessary part of his equipment, so mortal man needs a demonstrable idea of truth which is so firmly established in thought that it cannot be questioned even in the darkest hour. If he does not have something upon which he can depend, something that will hold him true to his course, he is tossed about by every wind that blows and there is little hope of ever reaching a haven of rest. Discouragement too often gives place to despair and the unfortunate one ceases to struggle against what he considers the inevitable.

This is by no means an unusual experience. How many persons realize their utter helplessness when confronted by certain conditions over which they feel they have no control. That which has helped them at other times seems of no avail. Because they know of no remedy for the ills they suffer they assume the trouble is incurable. When this conclusion is reached, there is little hope of deliverance unless the wrong sense is corrected and the sufferer is made to see that there is no such thing as an incurable evil.

There are countless theories advanced and many methods of practise outlined which it is believed will improve human conditions. The wise man said, "Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom; and with all thy getting get understanding."

### Truth Makes Free

It is the basic idea of all education, secular as well as religious, that the truth makes free. Mortal man is in bondage to ignorance and superstition. False belief has bound him with chains and cast him into prison. It is error, the opposite of truth, which limits, enslaves and confines. Was it ever believed that a person could lose anything by knowing the truth? Is it not a fact universally accepted that every man gains a higher and truer sense of existence as he is able to distinguish between the true and the false?

It is believed by all that much of the sin and suffering of this world is the result of ignorance, hence the conclusion that education will prove an effectual remedy. To this end we have our public and private schools, colleges, seminaries, and numerous other means and methods by which it is hoped to impart a clearer sense of reality and a more correct and a more comprehensive thought of life and its various activities. In proportion as this is accomplished, it is expected that there will be more unity of thought and action and that humanity will enjoy greater freedom. Because we believe that education will accomplish so much for mankind we are all agreed that education is a good thing

and a very necessary thing. We are also agreed that nothing but the truth can confer lasting benefits.

There have been differences of opinion as to what is truth and what constitutes reality, and doubtless this is the principal reason why humanity has made so little progress along certain lines. It would almost seem that in so far as it relates to the every-day affairs of this life, Pilate's question, "What is truth?" remains unanswered.

That mortals are materialists in theory and practise cannot be denied. While it is admitted that there is spiritual truth yet it is held that material truth, so called, is just as real as spiritual truth and has vastly more to do with the present life and all that tends to make this life desirable. Thought and effort have been in the main along material lines and what has been called progress has been in no small degree merely a change of belief. Mortal man has been compelled to admit that much of what he at one time believed to be true is not true. The progress he has made, the good he has attained, and the freedom he has enjoyed, has been relative rather than absolute.

### Scriptural Authority

The belief that man is possessed of a dual nature, that he is both material and spiritual, is father of the belief that truth is both material and spiritual, and this belief is responsible for the conflict between material science and religion. The Bible is accepted as authority on spiritual things, but the so-called higher criticism of this age is inclined to question the authenticity of the sacred writings whenever they fail to harmonize with scientific deductions from a material basis. Those unusual experiences, which have since been called miracles, are being questioned today as never before.

If the biblical record of the wonderful works accomplished by the prophets, apostles, and the Master is true, then that teaching which causes humanity to doubt, or to question, is an evil, for it prevents the exercise of that faith which is so necessary to a right apprehension of life and the proper solution of its perplexing problems. On the other hand the teaching which restores the waning faith and gives present proof of God's power to help humanity, is the pearl of great price, the value of which cannot be estimated according to material standards.

Such a teaching is Christian Science. It interprets all things from the standpoint of one God, infinite Spirit, one power, one cause and creator and brings more of hope, and faith, and courage into human experience. The Master declared that all good is gained, even in this world, by seeking first the kingdom of God, and those who are gaining the understanding of the fundamental teachings of Christian Science and putting them into practise, have abundant proof of the truth expressed in this far-reaching statement of the great teacher.

### Religion and Medicine

Ever since the dawn of civilization religion and medicine have been regarded as the two most effectual remedies for the ills of human experience. Every people has had its religion and every nation its system or systems of medicine. Every person has had faith in some method of healing and almost every person has had some faith in religion. It has been quite generally believed that medicine and religion are in no way identical, nor are they even necessary to each other. It is thought that the study and practise of medicine can be pursued independently of any religious convictions and it is also held that medical theories can neither help nor interfere with one's religious experience or the benefits resulting therefrom. Both are supposed to minister to human needs but each in its own way.

Mortals have been educated to believe that they cannot look to medicine for moral help or to religion for physical benefits. The line appears to be very sharply drawn and it is clearly set forth as to what one may or may not expect to receive from either source. It is true that religion is sometimes appealed to when material remedies have failed, but this is not because it is believed there is any connection between religion and medicine. Rather does it show that in the hour of its extremity, when all material means have failed, the human heart has some faith, feeble though it may be, that God is able to heal the ills of the flesh.

It is believed that in some ways medicine is able to provide the needed help, while in other respects religion alone can minister to human needs. But there are so many problems of daily life and such varied experiences which seem to be beyond the reach of either medicine or religion. In these trying times mortals are left to continue the struggle as best they can. If they succeed, it must be in their own strength, and if they fail they must suffer the consequences of ignorance or work poorly done. The

seeming helplessness of mortals and the never ending struggle against fearful odds show the great need of a universal remedy—a remedy which will effectually heal the ills of human experience. Christian Science is such a remedy. It declares that there is no such thing as an incurable ill. This one universal remedy for all discord is the understanding of and obedience to the law of God.

The law of God is eternal and its harmonious action cannot be interfered with. In the study of the Scriptures one is impressed by the fact that in the days of old, faith in God's presence and power was able to remove mountains and provide whatever was necessary to establish harmony. Many of the demonstrations of God's power were so extraordinary that they are considered unusual experiences and for this reason it is argued that their recurrence is not expected.

That which is unnatural is contrary to the law of nature. When it is understood that the law of divine Mind is the only real law of nature and that divine Mind never does and never has set aside its own eternal law, then it becomes evident that whatever God has accomplished for any people in any age, was and is divinely natural, and it is not unreasonable to expect such a recurrence of those wonderful works as occasion may require.

### Law and Prophecy Fulfilled

The three great characters of sacred history are Moses, Elijah and Jesus. The law was revealed through Moses, Elijah represented the spirit of prophecy which looks "not at the things that are seen, but at the things that are not seen," and in the teachings, the works, and the life of Jesus, both law and prophecy were fulfilled. In him was revealed the way out of Egyptian bondage, through the wilderness of human beliefs, doubts and fears, into the conscious possession of the promised land of spiritual existence where harmony rules and reigns supreme.

These persons possessed a sense of the presence and power of God which was unknown to the people, hence they were able to accomplish that which was believed by the multitudes to be impossible. This was especially true of the Master who demonstrated the power of God to restore harmony whatever the need might be from a human point of view. Many of his works were contrary to personal experience, and even to this day they are regarded as contradictions of natural law and order.

He walked on the water, stilled the tempest, fed the hungry multitudes, healed the sick, cast out devils, and raised the dead. His power to heal was not limited, neither was it exercised only in the healing of certain types of disease. It is recorded that he healed "all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people." Considering the inclination of mortals to rely upon earthly things so long as there is any hope of salvation in this direction, one is warranted in concluding that the great majority of those who appealed to the Master for help belonged to the so called incurable class.

Among the diseases which are mentioned specifically by the sacred writers are fever, dropsy, palsy, leprosy and insanity. The lame, the blind, the deaf and the dumb were made every whit whole. Among the blind was one who had never seen the light of day.

To the man with the withered hand the Master said, "Stretch forth thine hand," and "it was restored whole like as the other." There was another man who had been afflicted thirty and eight years. He lay in a helpless condition beside the pool Bethesda "waiting for the moving of the water." When Jesus saw him he commanded him to rise and walk, and immediately he was healed. A woman having an issue of blood twelve years was healed when she touched the hem of his garment. There was another "woman which had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bowed together, and could in no wise lift up herself." To her the Master said, "Woman, thou art loosed from thine infirmity. . . . and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God."

In at least three instances the dead were raised to life. The daughter of Jairus had just died when the sorrowing father appealed for help. In the case of the widow's son the funeral party was on the way to the burial, while Lazarus had been dead four days. But no mortal belief could prevent the demonstration of God's power to destroy even the last enemy.

### Universal Remedy

The Master's demonstrations were so varied and complete that it seems strange humanity has not seen in these healing works the proof that the understanding of Truth is the universal remedy for all the ills of human experience. The failure to realize this can be accounted for only

as one considers that these works were and are regarded as miracles—i. e., they were in some way accomplished contrary to the natural operation of the laws to which men and women of today are subject. This belief has prevented the practical demonstration of a power which is able to save from all evil.

Impossibilities do not occur. What has been done in the past can be accomplished today. If a particular result has followed the combination or succession of causes, that result will always follow when the same or no other influences are at work. No man ever undertakes that which he believes to be impossible. Because mortals have believed that the healing works of the Master were unnatural experiences, that is, contrary to natural law and order, they have not tried to understand how, or by what means, those works were accomplished; notwithstanding the fact that the great demonstrator of God's power to heal all human ills declared that the believer in all ages would be able to do the works that he did.

### Miracles Divinely Natural

Believers in the Christian religion have accepted the miracles of the Bible as demonstrations of divine power. Christian Science presented a new view of those miracles when it declared that the wonderful works accomplished by holy men of God were not contradictions of law. They were not brought about through suspension of the laws of nature, nor by arousing dormant forces and powers which have since returned to their former state. Those healing works were marvelous because human experience was unfamiliar with them. Nevertheless they were the divinely natural result of the operation of law which is ever present and ever active. Because a law is not recognized is no evidence of its nonexistence, and because the operation of law is not comprehended is no proof that the law is inoperative.

All the progress that has ever been made, or ever will be made, is the result of obedience to law. The wonderful inventions of the last century were as possible 6000 years ago as they are now. There is no law in operation, or in existence, today that has not been in operation since time began. And there never has been a law which is not in operation at this moment. If this be true, and if the works of the Master and his followers were the result of obedience to law, then all those works are possible today, and even greater demonstrations can be expected, for no one believes that the possibilities of infinite law have been fully realized.

### Advantages of Christian Healing

Most persons will admit that if it were possible to heal the sick today in the same manner as the sick were healed by the primitive Christians, the hope of overcoming the ills of the flesh would rest upon a more sure foundation. Christian Science declares that it is possible to heal all manner of diseases through spiritual means, as was demonstrated by the members of the early church, since those healing works were accomplished through obedience to divine law and that law is in full force today manifesting the will of God.

This Christianly scientific method of healing has many advantages. It is the one universal remedy for all discordant conditions; it is the most effective healing method the world has ever known and it avoids the possibility of disastrous results of operations and material methods of healing. It is always available. There is never a time or a place that the remedy is not at hand, for God's law and love are ever-present and omnipotent. Is it not believed that God is ever-present to help all men in the overcoming of sin? Why then should it seem unreasonable to declare that God is ever-present to help in the overcoming of all discordant conditions?

When Paul was permitted to plead his own cause in the presence of King Agrippa and the principal men of the city, he asked this searching question, "Why should it be thought a thing incredible with you, that God should raise the dead?" And so Christian Science is asking of thinking men and women of today, believers in God and believers in the verity of the sacred writings, "Why should it be thought a thing incredible with you, that God should heal the sick?"

Is there anything unreasonable in such a teaching, or is it in any sense contrary to the letter or the spirit of the Scriptures? Even though one may not believe in Christian Science, as he understands it, must he not admit that the claims of Christian Science are legitimate and in accord with what could be reasonably expected if one were to accept and put into practise the simple direct declarations of truth as uttered by the Master? Is there any reason why one should not accept at its full value the emphatic declaration "He that believeth shall be saved"? Surely not. Why then should he not accept, with the same measure of faith, that other

equally important declaration made by the same person on the same occasion, "And these signs shall follow them that believe?"

### Kingdom of Heaven at Hand

John the Baptist was the forerunner of Jesus the Christ. He came preaching in the wilderness of Judea and the burden of his cry was, "Repent ye; for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." When Jesus lifted up his voice to proclaim the gospel of eternal salvation to a waiting world, he began by reminding the people that something was required of them. "Repent; for the kingdom of heaven is at hand," was the keynote of his message.

John the Baptist and Jesus the Messiah referred to the kingdom of heaven as at hand, and both declared there must be a change of thought on the part of the people or they would not be able to comprehend this great truth. When Jesus sent out his disciples to preach the gospel and heal the sick, he told them to declare unto all who had ears to hear, "The kingdom of heaven is at hand."

To repent means more than to be sorry for wrong doing. The literal meaning of the word is "to have another mind," and repentance means "change of mind or reflection."

The Master declared at the very beginning of his ministry that he was not come to destroy the law but to fulfill the law. Neither in word or in deed did he go contrary to the eternal, unerring, and unchanging law of divine Mind. When it is understood that the law of God is made known in the teachings, the life, and the works of Jesus and that obedience to this law constitutes the kingdom of heaven in man, then is seen how great is the need for humanity to repent, or have another mind.

Even though there may be differences of opinion as to where heaven is located and when and how it is to be gained, all are agreed that in heaven there is no sin, sickness nor death. The revelator saw a new heaven and a new earth and he heard a great voice out of heaven saying, "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain; for the former things are passed away." In view of the fact that John saw this new heaven and new earth nearly two thousand years ago it must be that this harmonious state of existence is the reality of being now.

### What is Required

The declaration that "the kingdom of heaven is at hand" implies that it is possible of attainment. God's will is supreme in heaven. In fact there is no other will and His will is manifest or expressed, in the unceasing, harmonious operation of law. To understand and obey this law is to enter the kingdom. More than that is not necessary and less will not avail.

Jesus said to his disciples, "Except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven." The Master knew whereof he spake and he declared that a higher sense of righteousness, or rightness, than was entertained even by those who were regarded as the spiritual leaders of the people, was necessary to gain the kingdom of harmony which is ever at hand. It was the purpose of his life work to reveal the way to harmony. His method was to teach the truth as the people were able to receive it. His works were in demonstration of what he taught and while it might seem that the chief purpose was to help those in need of help, yet the great benefit of these works to universal humanity, is to be found in that they were practical demonstrations of the Truth which he declared would never pass away but would remain for all men in all ages to understand and demonstrate. The kingdom of heaven will never be more real than it is today, and it is at hand. What is there to prevent a man from entering this kingdom now and escape the discords of mortal existence? There is nothing but the belief in the reality and power of evil; hence the great need of repentance, the necessity for having another mind which will enable one to see things as they are.

### Discoverer and Founder

The term Christian Science was used by Mary Baker Eddy to designate the purely spiritual method of healing which she discovered. While this system of healing is not in accord with the various material methods known as medical practise, and while it does not harmonize with some of the present day theology, nevertheless it is Christian in spirit and practise, and it is scientific. It is based on divine Principle and can be demonstrated only as this Principle is understood and obeyed.

The teachings of Christian Science and the method of application in the healing of sickness are today exactly what they have been from the beginning. What other method of healing administers the same remedies and proceeds along the same lines as it

did 19 years ago? We hear it asked, "Is there no progress in Christian Science? Indeed there is. Progress in Christian Science means a better understanding of divine Principle expressed in a more spiritual consciousness and a more faithful obedience to divine law. What one learns of Truth for eternity and it matters not how far he may go or how much he may learn, if he has really gained even one idea of Truth he will never find another idea of Truth to contradict it. There is but one infinite, eternal Truth.

Mrs. Eddy was one of the most capable and successful religious leaders of this or any age. She is the author of "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures," the first and only text-book on Christian Science. This book is in no sense a substitute for the Bible but it enables the student to gain the spiritual sense of the Scriptures and make a practical application of the inspired teachings.

The various other writings of Mrs. Eddy, the unique public service which she instituted, the truly effectual church organization and government which she established, the provision for supplying the world with an abundance of pure Christian Science literature, all go to show how clearly she realized humanity's great need and what would most effectually meet that need in the present and the future.

We are accustomed to think and speak of her as our revered Leader and we realize that if we would gain the greatest possible good from her teachings, we must have the right concept of her life and her works. In the true sense of the word a leader is one who goes before and the most capable leader is the one who is the most successful doer. When Mrs. Eddy gave to the world the fundamental teachings of Christian Science she was not promulgating a theory. She had long since passed the theoretical stage in her work. She had experienced the healing power of Truth in her own life and after she discovered how her restoration to health had been accomplished, she proved that it was possible to heal others in the same manner. It was the demonstrable idea of Truth which heals morally and physically that she set forth in her writings. During the more than 40 years she labored so unceasingly for humanity, she always went before, and when she uttered her voice it was to give expression to the things she had found true in her own experience.

It is often the case that a reader seeks to impress his followers with a sense of the greatness of his personality, but such was not the case with Mrs. Eddy. She was a remarkable woman intellectually, morally and spiritually, but those who talked with her, or heard her speak on public occasions, were impressed more by the thought of the presence and power of God than by anything else. From first to last Mrs. Eddy's purpose was to turn the thought of the people away from her personality to God, and to those faithful students who lovingly accepted her as their God-appointed Leader she said many years ago, "Follow your Leader, only so far as she follows Christ" (Message to The Mother Church, June, 1901).

### Enlightened Faith

We sometimes hear it said that the physical healing accomplished in Christian Science is merely the result of faith. Let it be admitted that faith is desirable, yes, even necessary, this in no way detracts from the practical value of Christian healing, rather does it show that this method of healing, even from a human point of view, is built upon a foundation more enduring than that which supports the gigantic financial enterprises of a commercial age.

Take away the faith in men, in business methods, in the value of securities, and especially faith in the certainty of success, what would you have to build upon? It must be admitted that the value of material things is largely mental and when faith in values is destroyed there is a period of depression until that faith is restored. The so-called hard-headed business man is as much dependent upon faith as on anything else. Human faith in good is not a thing to be esteemed lightly. It needs to be encouraged and strengthened, for without faith the attainment of good is impossible.

Faith is by no means a weakness; on the contrary it is an indication of strength and ability. In the Scriptures we read that "faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen," and this word of truth has a much broader application than is generally recognized. Faith in the possibility of an achievement is necessary to success in any undertaking. In all ages those who have contributed most largely to the world's good have been men and women of great faith. Many have declared to make their lives a blessing to humanity, but only those who had faith sufficient to inspire endeavor in the face of great opposition have accomplished anything of real worth.

In his truly wonderful dissertation on faith, contained in the eleventh chapter of Hebrews, Paul writes, "He that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." The opening sentence of the Christian Science text-book, "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures," is as follows: "The prayer that reforms the sinner and heals the sick is an absolute faith that all things are possible to God,—a spiritual understanding of Him, an unselfed love."

On one occasion a father came to Jesus bringing his lunatic child whom the disciples had failed to heal. In the anguish of his heart he exclaimed, "If thou canst do anything, have compassion on us, and help us." The Master replied, "If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth." It is recorded that the child was cured from that very hour.

When the disciples afterward asked him why they had failed to accomplish this good work he told them it was because of their unbelief. He did not say that the case was incurable, or that it was God's will for the child to be afflicted in this manner, but he did say that failure was due to the lack of faith, or spiritual understanding.

### Fitness to Receive

Faith is necessary in the teaching and practise of Christian Science. Belief in good and the possibility of its attainment is a step in the right direction; faith is a more spiritual quality of thought wherein one begins to rely upon the infinite and to expect the desired result, but spiritual understanding which is faith in the true and broad sense of the word, demonstrates God's presence and power to heal.

It is a fundamental teaching of Christian Science that God, divine Love, has bestowed all good upon all mankind, but from the human point of view there must be an ability to perceive and a fitness to partake of that which has been bestowed. On how many occasions did the Master say to those who appealed to him for help, "According to your faith be it unto you," and to those who were the recipients of good he said, "thy faith hath saved thee." By this he meant that they were in a condition to be helped by his understanding of the Truth. It is recorded that at least on one occasion he did not perform many mighty works because of the people's unbelief, or lack of fitness to receive the blessing of divine Love.

In his parable of the sower, the Master taught that results are satisfactory only when conditions are favorable. The soil must be good and it must be prepared for the seed. If the soil is of inferior quality or is not properly prepared, it is unreasonable to expect a bountiful harvest. If one would receive the blessing of Truth he must make fit preparation. If he is unwilling to do this he should not complain when he fails to experience the good he desires.

### Obedience to Law

The sooner one learns that eternal good can be gained in no way except through obedience to divine law, the better it will be for him. The thought of God as person has encouraged the belief that one can gain good merely by asking for it, but the revelation that God is divine Principle operating through spiritual law, shows what is required on man's part and why it is required. Christian Science imparts the true idea of God and His creation and makes it possible for men to obey the divine demands.

All the sin, sickness, discord and suffering of earth can be traced back to a false sense of God and man. That which produces discord is not the remedy for discord and can never succeed in removing it. When this self-evident fact is recognized it will be understood that the only remedy for evil is that which cannot produce or contribute to evil.

Paul had a clear sense of Truth and error; good and evil, and throughout his writings he is very careful to separate one from the other. What could be more emphatic or more to the point than his positive declaration that "to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace?" It may be that Paul's thought is more clearly expressed in the revised version which reads, "The mind of the flesh includes all evil; the mind of the spirit includes all good and is life eternal. To the human sense of things the tares and wheat, good and evil, truth and error grow side by side. The understanding of Truth separates the one from the other. That which is found to be good and true is retained, and that which is proven false is evil and has no legitimate place in consciousness."

It is generally recognized that sin is a quality of the carnal, or mortal mind, and that it can be overcome by gaining a higher sense of good. It is not, however, so generally understood that sickness is from the same source