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Christian Science Speaks For Itself

Royal D. Stearns of Lincoln Replies to Rev. Bayne's Article of April 11th.

The following letter has been received from Royal D. Stearns of Lincoln:

Lincoln, Nebr., April 16, 1912.
Editor The Chief:—

In your issue of April 11th, you have an article relating to Christian Science which I wish to explain. I wish to say in advance that Christian Scientists as a religious body never criticize the work or attitude of other religious bodies in their respective fields of labor, however much or little the Christian Science body may differ from them in the interpretation and application of the scriptures to every day life: Christian Scientists realize that it is not Christian for them to fix standards of merit for others; they strictly follow the admonition of the Bible, "Judge not."

Your Rev. critic says "Paul never regarded his work as that of healing." Paul doubtless regarded his work as that comprehended in the command of Jesus to his adherents of all time. "To preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick." Paul did heal the sick and raise the dead; he overcame the deadly effect of the bite of the poisonous viper, moreover in Acts we are told that, "God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul so that the diseases of the sick departed from them and the evil spirits went out of them."

I am glad to notice that your critic acknowledges that healing is successfully done by Christian Scientists, the proof however is overwhelming that the healing of almost every known human ailment is being successfully accomplished all over the civilized world by the Christian Science method and in the larger percentage of cases after all resources known to human skill and science have been resorted to without success. But your critic attributes all healing to the application of the "law of suggestion."

I wonder how the law of suggestion could be applied in the case where Jesus healed the daughter of Jairus, and the centurion's servant, and in other instances where he was absent from the individuals healed. How could Jesus raise the dead through the application of any "law of suggestion?" In the Psalms we read that "God sent his word and healed them." "I will heal all thy diseases and forgive all thine iniquities." The prayer of faith shall save the sick." The "effective fervent prayer of the righteous man availeth much;" it is the right application of divine principle that heals the sick in all efficient christian healing. Jesus did not claim personal power to heal; He said "my Father worketh hitherto and I work. The Son can do nothing of himself but what he seeth the Father do. I can of mine ownself do nothing—the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works." God is universally recognized by Christian Scientists as the only healer. In the first bible account of healing it is plainly stated that "Abraham prayed unto God and God healed Abimelech."

Your critic also finds fault with Christian Scientists views concerning sin. Christian Scientists do not deny that sin and sickness constantly manifest themselves as present and real to the human experience and seem very real to the finite mind. It does affirm however that "God and the true or spiritual man, all sin, sickness, pain, etc. are unreal. This is clearly in accord with scriptural teaching and cannot be changed by human philosophy. The Bible declares that God created all that was made and "God saw all that he had made and behold it was very good." That being undeniable your critic has the alternative of saying either, sin and sickness are good because God created, and consequently real and indestructible, or else they are not good, not real to God, nor to the true man, and hence can be destroyed by the power of God. The view Christian Scientists take accords with the statement Jesus made, "I am not come to destroy but to fulfill." Had Jesus entertained the belief that God purposely as a part of His scheme of creation sent sin, sickness, etc., upon those who came to him for help He certainly would not have sought to change their physical conditions for "whatsoever God doeth is done forever." God is without variableness or the shadow of turning; "the same yesterday, today and forever."

Christian Science takes away the belief in a God who sends trouble to His children and gives in its place the living knowledge of the God who makes all the crooked ways straight and all "the rough places plain." When it is learned that God never "afflicts," but that our ignorance of God causes all the trouble, we see our way out philosophically; for the more we can know of Him and the more we have of

Him, the less we have of the difficulties that arise from not knowing and obeying Him. Christian Science teaches its adherents to seek God, love His law; live the "rightness" He demands. In this better acquaintance with God it promises that human troubles and discords will disappear lawfully and scientifically, for trouble and discord are not in God, nor of Him, nor can they live where His commandments and laws are obeyed.

Yours truly,
ROYAL D. STEARNS.

Pennsylvania's Natural Gas.
Pennsylvania opened her first well of natural gas in 1882, since which time the state has produced about one-half the natural gas consumed in the United States.

What He Saved.
Pathetic as well as amusing is the valedictory of a western editor: "With grateful acknowledgment to my friends and benediction upon the profession, I take my hat—the savings of 17 years in the newspaper field—and retire."

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Eighth Grade Examinations

Time—Thursday and Friday, April 25 and 26th, 1912.

Places—The court house at Red Cloud, and the public school building in Guide Rock, Blue Hill, Cowles, Inavale, Bladen, and Rosemont.

GERTRUDE L. COON, Co. Supt.

The Chief Leads—others follow.

Uncle Pennywise Says:
The barefoot actress who arrived in town this morning announces that she has lost her trunks. The show will go on, however, as she had an other pair in her handbag.—Courier Journal.

Writing on Finance.
An editor never feels more important than when he is writing an able review of general financial conditions and trying to make it sound as if he had absolute mastery of the subject.—Columbus Journal.

The Power of Prayer.
The seventy-second annual report of Muller's Orphanage, at Bristol, for which no appeal is ever made except by prayer to God, shows that the income last year was nearly £28,000.—London Times.

Do not think to be seen by a microscope who suffers him to be caught in a fit of passion—Lavater.