

**THE MEDICINE MAN**

In reply to a letter received some time ago from an ardent admirer of The Independent, the editor wishes to say that he never doubted that many wonderful cures have been effected by what are called "mind healers." Every student of medicine for 100 years has been taught that the power of suggestion can kill a man in perfect health. There have been many well attested instances of it. If suggestion can kill, he can see no reason why it cannot also cure.

"Amid savage tribes," says Brinton, "in undoubted and repeated instances, the curse kills as certainly as the knife. Among the western Indians of our country, when a medicine man 'gathers his medicine,' that is, rises to the full height of inspired volition, and utters a withering curse upon his antagonist, commanding him to die, the latter knows all hope is lost. Sometimes he drops dead on the spot, or at best lingers through a few days of misery."

Such facts have been so well established, not only among Indians, but among whites as well, that no well informed person longer disputes them. To what extent this power of mind can be used for the healing of disease is a disputed question. No one disputes that it can be so used or that in certain types of disease that it has proved very effective, especially so in nervous complaints and certain kinds of tumors. When it comes to setting up a theory that is not in harmony with reason, experience or existing conditions and which contradicts the evidence of the senses, that is another matter altogether. That is a field into which The Independent will not enter.

**DID THE TARIFF DO IT?**

Those beautiful isles of the southern seas, where Beveridge told us that one could pick up nuggets of gold along the creeks, are giving even such imperialists as the New York Tribune serious thoughts these days. Notwithstanding that the Almighty threw them in our lap, that destiny made it imperative that the Declaration of Independence and the constitution should be torn in shreds, that they were necessary to make us a world power, and ever so many other things of like nature, the fact is, they have indeed been made "a howling wilderness." A famine rages there. The cattle have died, cholera has carried off more than 100,000, leprosy is spreading, the bubonic plague has a firm foothold and smallpox is more virulent than ever. Congress seems to have concluded that the Dingley tariff did it and is going to reduce the duties 75 per cent. The Independent has a very poor opinion of the Dingley tariff, but it don't believe that that is what is the matter with the Philippines. The distress is the direct result of the imperialistic policy adopted by this government. It is imperialism—the overthrowing of the fundamental doctrines upon which the government of the republic was founded—that has resulted in this heretofore unheard of misery and distress. The tariff did not do it, and a modification of the tariff will not relieve it. Nothing but distress and disease could follow such a war as was waged in the Philippines.

**DIVIDE AND CONQUER**

Every reform party and organization is divided into factions and votes for different candidates. This has for the most part been accomplished by the use of money by the leaders of the republican party. That party has factions, but they all always vote the same ticket for the same candidates. The Chicago Tribune has advocated tariff reform for years, but it always supported the republican ticket. Governor Cummins and his "Iowa idea" is diametrically opposed to the republican policies, but Governor Cummins and his followers vote 'er straight every time. It is by this method that

the republican party holds power.

But in the democratic party it is different. A section of it for the last six years has voted the republican ticket. The few votes thus cast are not of vital importance—there have not been enough of them to change the result at any time—but it has discredited the party and has prevented hundreds of thousands from voting the democratic ticket who would otherwise have done so, so this division has very serious results.

The people's party has been divided and its followers have voted for different candidates. The socialists have been divided and have failed to support the same ticket. The labor organizations, while fighting government by injunction and most of the policies of the republican party, have divided their vote. So it has been all along the line.

It must be evident to every man who has common sense that as long as this condition of affairs continues the republican party will stay in power and the trusts, banks and corporations will rule. The organization of a new party will not alter this state of affairs in the least, or, if it has any effect at all it will make it worse. The only way out of this difficulty is for all those who are opposed to trusts, exorbitant tariffs, imperialism, government by injunction, discrimination of the railroads and the concentration of wealth in few hands to vote one and the same ticket. There is no other way. If any man thinks there is any other way The Independent would be pleased to receive a statement from him.

**SPEAKER MCKETT**

The editors and management of The Independent are well pleased to see John H. Mockett, jr., chosen by the republican caucus for speaker of the house. Personally he is a pleasant gentleman to meet and will doubtless make a better presiding officer than some of his republican opponents.

But aside from any personal friendliness toward Mockett the man, The Independent believes that his election ought to convince the most ardent republican anti-monopolist that he can have nothing to expect from the republican party in Nebraska. Mockett's election is a decided victory for the Burlington railroad, a victory for the Lincoln Daily Star, a victory for D. E. Thompson.

The absence of so many of the old-timers and the presence of so many new faces among the republican members of the legislature caused some anti-Thompsonites to believe that they had finally won. Perhaps more than half of all the republican members did make their campaigns to some extent with the understanding, either expressed or implied, that they would resist the dictations of the Brazilian minister; but they fell into his snares.

Mockett's election is a hard blow on the poor, old State Journal. It is a hard blow, too, on those republicans who supposed they could smash the machine. It will be a hard blow on those republicans who supposed that their party can stop railroad tax shirking and railroad freight robbery.

Senator Morgan has got the situation in regard to trusts down to a fine point. In a late interview concerning democratic and republican leaders, he said: "Whichever party is out of power cries out against the octopus; whichever party is in power hugs the octopus to its breast." Mr. Morgan has been in a good place to observe party leaders for many years.

One set of scientists declare that the coal of the world will be exhausted within 300 years. Another set say that between petroleum and the improved methods of producing cheap alcohol, that coal mining will be abandoned within the next twenty years because it will not pay. These scientists are great fellows, especially Professor Jenks.

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The right of the government to take property from one owner, give a title to it to another owner has had several applications during the last week. Many hundred carloads of coal belonging to private parties in urgent need of it, have been taken by the railroads under the law granting them that right. If the railroads can take coal belonging to private owners and convert it to their own use, the government can certainly take the railroads, when the public welfare demands it.

The rise in freight rates caused a fall in the price of grain of 2 cents a bushel. Every farmer who raises 5,000 bushels of corn contributes \$100 to the railroads to reimburse them for the money the roads paid out to redeem the state of Nebraska. The dwellers in cities contribute like amounts on goods which they consume. Meantime the disbursement to common schools is greatly reduced and every mullet head is happy as well as that class of men who declare that there was "nothing to vote for" at the last election.

It seems that many of the business men of London have recognized the inevitable and have annexed Canada to the United States. The Canadian papers state that large numbers of letters are received in the Dominion from business men in London addressed to Canada, U. S. A. It will, however, not do to give full credence to that conclusion, the business men of the tight little island have so long believed that it was the main part of the world, that they have very hazy ideas of where the rest of the world lies, and instead of thinking that Canada has been annexed, they have no idea on the subject at all. It is just pure, undefiled ignorance.

A Porto Rican student at Cornell in a letter to the press vigorously protests against being called an "appurtenance" to the United States, but he will have to accept the station which it has pleased God to place him in. This race, though it is the worst conglomeration of different bloods ever known, is the superior race which Divine Providence has chosen to rule inferior races and Justice Brown was the inspired and chosen mouthpiece of the Lord to declare that Porto Rico was an "appurtenance." So that settles it.

Mr. Starkey's revival of General Weaver's apt illustration of the workings of "an elastic currency" is timely. The principle is wrong. Instead of a currency that stretches and gets

bigger when prices start upward, it should act just the other way. Honest money is money that will purchase year after year about the same amount of commodities on the average. An expanding currency robs the creditor and a contracting currency robs the debtor. With the issue of currency controlled by the banks, self-interest dictates that whenever prices have an upward tendency the bankers issue more and thus intensify what they ought to check; and when prices start down again, self-interest dictates that they should contract and intensify the downward movement. Nothing but absolute government control of the currency will ever remedy the difficulty.

The plutocratic dailies still declare that there are "good trusts." That sort of thing they define as follows: "A great aggregation of capital engaged in the production of goods of some sort which by the combination they are able and do produce and sell cheaper than if the combination did not exist." Since the Standard Oil trust has obtained control of the Beaumont and Louisiana oil fields it has raised prices \$1 a barrel. Is the Standard Oil trust a good trust?

Every displacement of silver means a lessening of the standard of living in all the Orient. That standard, however, is now so low that a further reduction means starvation to vast multitudes, a thing which has already occurred in India, and is on the verge of occurring in the Philippines. It is no use to remonstrate with the human monsters of finance who have planned that thing, on ethical grounds. The only appeal to which they will listen must come from an opposite quarter. If these millions of Asia and the Asiatic archipelagoes are reduced in their standard of living, it will have a reflex action on the manufacturing nations, for the orientals will be able to buy no more goods.

In these days of plutocracy and trusts a race track jockey gets a salary of from \$10,000 to \$18,000, while a president of a university gets from \$5,000 to \$6,000.

The southern papers are making it hot for Brer Watterson for having suggested Gorman for the presidency. They say that Watterson has assaulted every democrat who ever favored protection and now takes up Gorman, the greatest protectionist in the United States and besides that a tool of the trusts and is the man who made a monkey of the Wilson tariff bill.