

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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ISSUE 165

**SUBJECT: Ancient and Modern
Necromancy, Alias Mesmerism
and Hypnotism, Denounced
— May 31st, 2020**

Medical Mesmerism – Some Amusing Facts

Clinical studies published in major medical journals have shown that giving a patient a round, white sugar pill (shaped like an aspirin, for example) indeed produces a healing effect, but not as powerful as does a smaller, blue sugar pill with a letter stamped on it.

Moreover, if the sugar is administered in the form of a capsule, the healing effect is even stronger than the sugar taken in tablet form.

And a white capsule has a weaker healing effect than a capsule that's yellow on one end and red on the other.

The placebo effect is also enhanced by increasing the dosage: patients taking sugar pill twice a day were not as "benefited" as were those taking the same sugar pill three doses per day.

But beating all those pills out is...[drum roll]... the mighty needle. Study after study has demonstrated that injecting a completely harmless, inert substance into a patient has the strongest effect of all.

See *Science and Health*, page 156, featuring Mrs. Eddy's interesting experience with a patient healed of a terrible disease through the placebo effect.

Very true, and as a medical nurse I gave, per physician orders, sterile water injection to substitute morphine and saw it have the same effect as a morphine injection would have. So, go figure to what extent our false beliefs control us!!

So, why not choose the right, the real, the true, especially when we come to know better, that man is the manifestation of God!

From Carpenter's *Spiritual Precepts*:

"In a magazine called *Oral Hygiene* for April 1943, there is an incident told by a dentist, Dr. Philip Southward, of Wilmington, Delaware, where one of his patients went into a state of anesthesia upon being given somniform. She experienced no pain when a tooth was extracted, she being in an unconscious state. When the patient had gone, the dentist discovered that the somniform ampule was intact. Since she had taken no gas, his deduction was that she must have hypnotized herself. Here is an instance of a drug that was applied mentally."

Must Handle Mesmerism!

Sharing this pertinent excerpt from "Tokens of Divine Love," a 1915 article by Luman A. Field which shows how significant this Lesson is for our journey from "sense to Soul."

"The sermon, 'Ancient and Modern Necromancy, alias Mesmerism and Hypnotism, Denounced,' is the only one in the series which has as its specific object the exposure of error, — its subtlety, its powerlessness, and its utter nothingness. Some Christian Scientists labor under the mistaken impression that they do not like this sermon, yet we all should realize that its teachings are very vital, else it would not have been given us. Its importance may be discerned to some extent if we will but remember that Mrs. Eddy was not able to publish the first edition of *Science and Health* until she had prepared the chapter on 'Animal Magnetism,' as we read in *Retrospection and Introspection* (pp. 37, 38). On page 64 of this same work Mrs. Eddy states, 'It is scientific to abide in

conscious harmony, in health-giving, deathless Truth and Love,’ but she immediately points out that ‘To do this, mortals must first open their eyes to all the illusive forms, methods, and subtlety of error, in order that the illusion, error, may be destroyed’; adding the significant warning, ‘if this is not done, mortals will become the victims of error.’ This sermon exposes error and its ‘illusive forms, methods, and subtlety,’ to the end that error may be destroyed, its nothingness made plain to us, and we saved from becoming its victims.”

"...Familiar Spirits and Wizards that Peep and Mutter..."

“And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God?” (Isa.8:19)

From Webster’s 1828 Dictionary:

“Seek – to look for; to search for by going from place to place.

“Peep – to begin to appear or come forth from concealment.

“Mutter – to utter with sullenness; to complain; to grumble; to murmur.”

I would never go to a fortune-teller, spiritualist, or use Ouija board, so I asked myself “What is the familiar spirit or wizard that might peep or mutter to me?”

A “familiar spirit” might be a position outgrown that is tempting me to go back to it; or any whispering, downward thought I might accept as my own; perhaps a temptation to rely on medicine or drugs, or listen to the advice of doctors (wizards), or turn to alcohol or mindless social amusements for escape. A “wizard” is anything that would enchant or beguile me. It often comes first as a minor discontent or grumbling, a murmuring complaint about something, and then a lapse into discouragement, sullenness, or resentment. It’s all animal magnetism — no power, no place, no thing. My only saving grace is to seek God — to know that God is *my* mind, the *only* Mind, and any other “muttering” or “peeping” is without power, cause, influence, or truth.

What a powerful Lesson-Sermon this is. Thank you, lesson writer!

The Right and Wrong Way to Inquire of the Lord

1 Samuel 28:6, 7

“And when Saul inquired of the Lord, the Lord answered him not, neither by dreams, nor by Urim, nor by prophets. Then said Saul unto his servants, Seek me a woman that hath a familiar spirit, that I may go to her, and inquire of her...”

From *Benson Commentary*: “...since he did not continue to inquire of him (God), but went to a diviner, it was all one as if he had not inquired at all; for he did it faintly, coldly, and indifferently. ...He whose heart is perfect with God, lifts up his eyes unto him, and fixes them on him; hoping in him, though he doth not presently hear him; and perseveres in his expectation and confidence, firmly setting a resolution to wait upon him. But so did not Saul, who was remiss and negligent, saying in his heart, If God will not hear me, I will go and consult a familiar spirit.”

“He did not seek in faith, but with a double, unstable mind.” (Matthew Henry)

This account of Saul and the unfortunate events that happened to him when he decided to seek answers from something so opposite to God shows how important it is to not be deceived to look to any supposed power apart from God for anything. Mrs. Eddy makes it very clear:

Science and Health, p. 183: “Divine Mind rightly demands man’s entire obedience, affection, and strength. No reservation is made for any lesser loyalty. Obedience to Truth gives man power and strength. Submission to error superinduces loss of power.”

Draw Nigh to God

“Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you.” James 4:8

“Nigh: Near; not distant; of easy access; close in fellowship.” (Webster’s 1828 Dictionary)

In thinking about how to apply the story of Saul to myself, what stood out to me was when he said, "God is departed from me." Since God is all and He is changeless good, nor did He go anywhere, it was Saul who had a falling away from God. One thing that really got Saul in trouble to begin with, I think, was his envy of David. This tormented Saul to the point he no longer thought correctly. This opened the door to all kinds of error and led him to live out a human destiny that he did not have to. Even to the very end, he did not resist any of these aggressive suggestions. I am very grateful for this Lesson and the selections from *Science and Health* that instruct a way out of darkness into the light.

From "The Kind of Revival We Need" by Charles Spurgeon:

"It is good for us to draw nigh unto God in prayer. Our minds are grieved to see so little attention given to united prayer by many churches. How can we expect a blessing if we are too idle to ask for it? How can we look for a Pentecost if we never meet with one another, in one place, to wait upon the Lord? Brethren, we shall never see much change for the better in our churches till the prayer meeting occupies a higher place in the esteem of Christians. But now that we have come together, how shall we pray? Let us not degenerate into formality, or we shall be dead while we think we live. Let us not waiver through unbelief, or we shall pray in vain. Oh, for great faith with which to offer great prayers!...Urgently do we need a revival of personal godliness. This is, indeed, the secret of church prosperity. When individuals fall from their steadfastness, the church is tossed to and fro; when personal faith is steadfast, the church abides true to her Lord. It is upon the truly godly and spiritual that the future of religion depends in the hand of God. Oh, for more truly holy men, quickened and filled with the Holy Spirit, consecrated to the Lord and sanctified by His truth. Brethren, we must each one live if the church is to be alive; we must live unto God if we expect to see the pleasure of the Lord prospering in our hands. Sanctified men are the salt of society and the saviours of the race."

The Law of Attraction

In our Lesson this week, the reference from *Science and Health* page 102 says "There is but one real attraction, that of Spirit. The pointing of the needle to the pole symbolizes this all-embracing power or the attraction of God, divine Mind."

This quote reminds me of another example of this law of attraction from *Leaves of Healing* by Peter V. Ross, where he says:

"At this point my lead pencil demands a hearing. It reminds me that it is built of particles so far apart that were my vision keen enough the pencil would look more porous than a sieve. Not one atom touches its neighbors. The law of attraction holds them in their respective orbits. No man on earth is strong enough to pull the pencil in two — strong enough to separate the atoms from one another. Why are they so clannish? Because they like one another. Here shines forth, not the strength of materials, for matter is a phantom, but the power of adoration.

"How silent is the atom in its ceaseless activity. The patriot is silent. Never does he boast of his patriotism. It is so much a part of him that he scarcely knows he has it. So of one who is strong in love. The emotion is his very self. It seldom occurs to him to announce it.

"Here we have a hint of the heart of spiritual or metaphysical healing. It is more than a purely intellectual process. It has, at its highest, the warmth and ardor of devotion. It is the mood wherein evil is unthinkable and unrecognizable, wherein good is the natural and exclusive order, the all and the only."

Thank you lesson writers.

Shall We Not Endure?

Matt. 24:13, 14 "But he that shall **endure** unto the end, the same shall be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations."

“ENDURE, verb transitive [Latin durus, duro.]

1. To last; to continue in the same state without perishing; to remain; to abide.”

Mrs. Eddy prayed for what it takes to endure to the end, as in her prayer below:

“Oh, my God, I offer as a consecrated gift upon Thine altar, a heart dedicated to Thy service, lips speaking only words of charity, love, and truth, thoughts striving to be only the true thoughts of the Mind of God. **Help me to endure unto the end, strong in the faith, powerful in the truth, all the influence that I can bring to bear**, all the force of tongue or pen that is mine, I offer in Thy service. May heaven help, consecrate, and accept.”

(“Mrs. Eddy’s Prayer,” given at the Massachusetts Metaphysical College, found in both the April 1885 *Christian Science Journal* and in *Mary Baker Eddy’s Six Days of Revelation*, page 171.)

We can all pray this as we go forward doing **only our Father’s will**, whatever that may be.

Refuge in Truth

“Science only can explain the incredible good and evil elements now coming to the surface. Mortals must find refuge in Truth in order to escape the error of these latter days.” *Science and Health*, page 83.

This pandemic that seems to be happening is nothing but a wake-up call. Man has forgotten God and turned to materiality. This state of thought needs to be rooted out and destroyed. Evil can no longer be hidden. On page 210 of *Miscellaneous Writings*, we read that “error, when found out, is two-thirds destroyed, and the remaining third kills itself.” Our part is to use truth to uncover error, and then leave the remaining one-third to its fate of being self-destroyed. See *Watching Point* 389.

Our only safety is in God and as the First commandment states, “Thou shalt have no other gods before me.”

Mrs. Eddy says in *Watches, Prayers, Arguments* page 145, “Know every day, that the world is ready

for Christian Science.” The good is coming to the surface.

SUBJECT: God the only Cause and Creator — June 7th, 2020

Lesson Topic

The *Sentinel* article, entitled “Tokens of Divine Love,” by Luman A. Field, April 3, 1915, identifies:

“We are told in the *Sentinel* of March 2, 1899, that the subjects chosen, follow the order our Leader was accustomed to employ in teaching her classes.”

Speaking of “God the Only Cause and Creator,” the writer states:

“The next three sermons, ‘God the Only Cause and Creator,’ ‘God the Preserver of Man,’ and ‘Is the Universe, Including Man, Evolved by Atomic Force?’ may be conveniently grouped together, the last one dealing with the materialistic theory of creation in contradistinction to the two preceding ones, which unfold the great fact that the universe, including man, is evolved and preserved by infinite Mind.”

The topic (“topic” defined by Webster as, “Any subject of discourse or argument”) always has such an important role in introducing the subject, that the Lesson will expand upon. I am so grateful to receive unfoldment from a prayerful study of the topic Mrs. Eddy provided, each week, as well as the unique perspective of the topic, given in the Lesson.

"Obedient to the Mind that Makes Them"

“The universe is filled with spiritual ideas, which He evolves, and they are obedient to the Mind that makes them.” (*Science and Health*, p. 295)

“Obedient – submissive to authority; yielding compliance with commands; performing what is required, or abstaining from what is forbid.” (Webster’s 1828 Dictionary)

This powerful statement from *Science and Health* was often given to us by our teacher to work with, and can also apply to our nation.

Our nation, *one nation under God*, is peopled with God's ideas, and they are obedient to the Mind that makes them. They are obedient to the one Law, "divine Principle, Love, underlying, overlying, and encompassing all true being." (*Science and Health*, 496:18) Therefore, they express order, harmony, unity, wisdom, justice, and brotherly love. There is no other mind apart from God to incite hatred, racism, violence, or destruction. This ever-present, ever-active, all enforced and all-encompassing Law cannot be avoided, evaded, nor abrogated. God, Mind, *is* the only Law, the *only Cause and Creator*.

Thank you for your post and powerful treatment. It has given me much needed food for thought.

If We Give the Same Heed

On Sunday evening I heard a speaker say, "Don't allow the 'news' to block out Heaven's news. God has news for you, and He is going to be speaking to you of what He is doing." This spoke to me of what we are being taught here at Plainfield. Here is a sample of a few notes just from the May 31st Roundtable. We are also given the tools to live this Science in practical ways each moment.

- Stay focused on the right side with God.
- Don't allow yourself to be mesmerized by the media.
- Watch what you let into your thinking.
- Watch to keep your thoughts pure to see God's allness.
- Only God knows what is what so bow before Him.
- What are you holding fast to?
- What thoughts are you listening to?
- Guard thoughts and catch early the suggestions that would lead you away from God.

From our Bible Lesson this week:
"In the Science of Genesis we read that He saw everything which He had made, 'and, behold, it

was very good.' The corporeal senses declare otherwise; and if we give the same heed to the history of error as to the records of truth, the Scriptural record of sin and death favors the false conclusion of the material senses. Sin, sickness, and death must be deemed as devoid of reality as they are of good, God." *Science and Health*, page 525:22-29

Thank you for this post. In order to keep our thoughts straight and focused on God, instead of the what the world seems to be "reporting," continued watching is necessary. I find the following article to be very helpful:

Watching by Parthens

"In *Collectanea*, Mary Baker Eddy gives the following two instructions in regards to Watching:

"WATCH — ...sit down and first get yourself into a consciousness of your power with God, and then take up the Outside Watch. Sit until this is clear, — if two hours."

"WATCH — ...take up the Watch every two hours as long as you live or until you can make the right side real to your consciousness."

Inside watch first — then the outside watch! This entire article can be found on our church website.

No Lapse from Perfection

In our Lesson this week, these passages from our textbook stood out to me as some of my favorites:

"God is the creator of man, and, the divine Principle of man remaining perfect, the divine idea or reflection, man, remains perfect. Man is the expression of God's being. If there ever was a moment when man did not express the divine perfection, then there was a moment when man did not express God, and consequently a time when Deity was unexpressed — that is, without entity." *Science and Health*, 470:21

"The relations of God and man, divine Principle and idea, are indestructible in Science; and Science knows no lapse from nor return to harmony, but

holds the divine order or spiritual law, in which
God and all that He creates are perfect and eternal,
to have remained unchanged in its eternal history.”
Science and Health, 470:32

“Lapse—a slight deviation from truth or
rectitude.” (Webster’s 1828 Dictionary)

These passages remind me that it is
inconceivable, unthinkable, and therefore
impossible, for there to ever be a moment when
man can deviate from his divine Principle, God,
who holds man unchanged in its eternal harmony.

Thank you lesson writers for this wonderful
lesson.

Am I holding to this spiritual fact of unchanging
perfection, as the Truth about me consistently?
What a valuable, unceasing healing prayer!

Hymn 163

“So from our hearts must ever flow
A love that will all wrong outweigh;
Our lips must only blessings know,
And wrath and sin shall die away.

For it is Mind’s most holy plan
To bring the wanderer back by love;
Then let us win our brother man,
And glorify our God above.”