

Unction of the Sick.

In moving the resolution, which is before you on the Agenda Paper, "That this Synod do memorialize the General Synod of Canada to appoint a Committee to consider the question of restoring the permissive use of the ancient practice of Anointing the Sick," I desire to lay before you certain facts to which I would ask the Synod most respectfully to give earnest attention. And first, let me say that this subject is one of no small importance. It is important because it belongs to that sphere of faith and practice in which the universal Church was in primitive ages in absolute accord. And it is important, too, in the degree which it has upon the Church's mission to the world. We know the intimate relation between soul and body; we know, through the fact of the Resurrection, what the value of the body is, and we know too that some special gifts of healing and a general power working for the health of the body were signs and accompaniments of not merely Apostleship but even Discipleship, in the early Church. Now, if it be that the Apostles, following a direct command, or even an example set by Christ, and, writing under the inspiration of the Holy Ghost, practised and recommended an Ordinance, designed to convey a specific blessing to one in grievous sickness, whereby he might look not only for spiritual help in the trying hours of pain and weakness, but also and chiefly, if God saw fit, a restoration to health, and if it be that the early Church continued to practise the custom, testifying to its value, it cannot fail to be a matter of grave questioning whether we are not sustaining in the Anglican branch of the Church, a distinct loss by allowing a perverted following of the Apostles' precept by another branch of the Church to so warp our judgment as to lead us to deny altogether the right use of something which has inspired authority behind it. The spiritual nature of disease, and the power of the mind over the body, are more recognized now than at any time since universal belief in