

MONTHLY NOTES

position than our present one) part of the man-made clothing that the patient then wore, was permitted to fall off in his ascent; and the rest is supposed to have been consumed in the fire that surrounded the chariot; thus showing that garments of our make cannot be permitted in the new domain. The way in which disease of the spiritual eyesight is produced is this:—the only raw material that can be procured on this estate, is very poor in quality, and full of dark stains; so that in making up, it requires the use of much stiffening material, and of strong dyes; and, it is said by those who are good judges in this matter, that all these things are charged with poisonous gases, of which no human skill can rid them; these being liberated by artificial heat, generated in the process of making, cause such an inflation and inflammation of the pupil of the eye, as to completely deceive the patient, as to the nature and appearance of everything near him, and at the same time rendering him quite blind even to the most beautiful objects at a distance. This disease sometimes attacks a whole community; for we find in our medical record, that about the year ninety, quite a number of the inhabitants of Laodicea suffered from it; such havoc indeed did it make with their eyesight that they were completely deceived as to their own personal appearance and condition; actually going to the trouble of collecting a large quantity of a spurious metal, thinking that they were becoming rich in fire refined gold, the only metal that is permitted to pass the borders of the large estate which is to be our home; these illusions are thus described by our physician; "Thou sayest I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind and naked," Rev. 3, 17 v. He then goes on to gently advise them; "I counsel thee to buy of Me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich, and white raiment that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear;" from which it is quite evident that the only effective clothing, is that provided by our physician, and known under the name of "The righteousness of Christ;" while that made by ourselves, and labelled "Our own righteousness," is thus shown to be quite worthless. Then follows the prescription for the disease itself; "Anoint thine eyes with eye-salve that thou mayest see," Rev. 3, 18 v. From a letter written by one of the Physician's chief assistants, it appears that this wonderful ointment is supplied by our Physician himself, was at that time used by all his best patients, and produced remarkable results, as is shown by this sentence, "But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things," 1 John 2, 20 v.

Accidents. Every one is liable to what are called accidental injuries; in the case of our bodies it sometimes happens that we are, without any fault of ours, disabled; but in spiritual matters, the fault is always our own. As we well know, much of our time and energy is taken up with building; this may almost be said to be our business; the one before referred to as being interrupted by the making of our own clothing. Now as the building to be erected, is intended to last for an unlimited period, and must be founded

only on "The Rock," it will be readily perceived, that the material and workmanship must be of the best. During attacks of the eye disease, to which all are liable, we sometimes mistake the hard clay of human conceits, for our building material—stone hewn in the quarry of truth, and use this substance in building up that character which shall be immortal; so it is not surprising that when one of these storms of human passion (from which none are free) beat against our building, the defective portion crumbles away, precipitating us into the depths of some grievous sin, such as David fell into, and inflicting serious injury upon our spiritual system. When we thus undermine our influence over others, and bring reproach upon the religion we profess, by our fall, let us at once examine the injured limb, under the penetrating rays of the "Spirit of Light;" and turn to our medical book for instructions; for cases in which mortification has set in, holding out no hope of cure, our Physicians says, "If thy right hand offend thee, cut it off and cast it from thee; for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell." Matt. 6, 30. If however it appears that the hand may, by skilful treatment be saved, and remembering that our Physician is a specialist in surgery—for in one of his first addresses when visiting us, he announced that he was sent to perform a kind of operation that had never before being attempted by any one, that is to bind up the broken-hearted—we should immediately ask him to undertake the case; feeling confident that he who had always been successful in effecting cures, would not fail upon this occasion; his guarantee being "Ask and ye shall receive," so that often we have justly and severely suffered for our folly, we shall doubtless under his treatment regain the use of the injured member.

We have now glanced at two serious cases of disease, and one of injury, and shewn the absolute certainty of cure in each case. I will now add that in the lighter ailments that afflict us, his treatment is equally successful; take for instance a chill, brought on by a current of cold air between a fellow-patient and yourself; for this the remedy is, "If thine enemy hunger feed him, if he thirst give him drink, for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head." These directions faithfully carried out, as far as circumstances permit, will, by promoting healthy exercise in keeping up the coals, combined with the heat of the hot coals, dispel any chill of that nature; and for a case of depression and running down of the spiritual system, frequent applications of the tonics, "Rejoice in the Lord alway, again I say rejoice;" will effect a speedy cure.

Having then, fellow-members of St. Andrew's Brotherhood, such confidence in our medical adviser, let us, as we meet from day to day those who are spiritually sick, and have failed to secure proper medical aid, recommend them to our Physician, and His prescription book, as the only infallible means of cure for these diseases; adding our own testimony to that of millions who have gone before us, that there is no doctor to be compared to the "Great Physician."