

disease and that her body was bowed down as a result. The man at the pool of Bethesda was most likely a case of rheumatism where the person was greatly crippled. Here again a sudden cure would be superhuman.

There are case of palsy of functional origin. These cases are sometimes spoken of as hysterical, imaginary, or coming from nervousness. An insane man might think he had lost the power over some part of his body. Or a hysterical woman might be unable to move her arm to-day and be in the wash tub to-morrow. But these cases are not accompanied by wasting; and so do not correspond with, at least, some of the cases in the New Testament that were cured. Thus it becomes perfectly clear that all the cases in the New Testament are not of this class. Therefore the miraculous element cannot be obliterated by this contention for these paralytic cases.

(b) *Diseases of the Mind*.—There can be but little doubt in the minds of careful students of the Bible that some cases of insanity are recorded. In Matt. xvii. 15 we meet with a term that has been rendered lunatic, or better in the revised version epileptic. Every medical authority recognizes the fact that some of the worst forms of insanity, or lunacy, are found in the victims of epilepsy. Then many of those, who are spoken of as being possessed of evil spirits, might also be spoken of as being insane. No matter by what means the mind became dethroned, insanity would be the result. The word *seleniazetai* is very properly translated "epileptic." In the authorized version it is rendered lunatic. Whether lunacy, or the insanity of epilepsy, a sudden cure is a miraculous one: for there are no means known to medical science of effecting an instantaneous cure in such cases, no matter what the causes may have been.

Saul's case is an extremely interesting one. Saul had lived a wicked life. The spirit of the Lord had left him; and in its place an evil spirit from the Lord swayed his mind. This does not justify the conclusion that Saul was under demoniacal possession. Saul was suffering the consequences of his conduct. His mind was tormented. In other words he was in a state of melancholy. This is a common form of insanity in those past middle life, as was