

"He was so sincere a believer in the doctrine that though seriously diseased, he would take no medicine, nor consult any physician, relying entirely upon the efficacy of prayer, and the meditation of 'faith-healers.' It seems that this reliance was in vain. His health continued to fail, and when the time came that he was to depart for London, as an American delegate to the 'International Faith-healers' Convention,' he was in bad physical condition for a voyage across the Atlantic. But he went—so strong was his confidence in this doctrine of faith-healing—sailing from New York, May 9. He died during the voyage and was buried in the sea. If the doctrine of faith-healing, as it is taught, is true, here is an instance in which its truth ought to have been made manifest. There was no lack of faith. Dr. Stanton's faith was triumphant over all discouragements, and his piety was such that, in his behalf, the healing power ought to have wrought without embarrassment—the more so that he was risking his life in his devotion to the interest of faith healing. It proved to be a delusion, and the facts in this case ought to go far in sobering the judgment and moderating the dogmatism of the adherents of that doctrine."

There is a sense in which the "prayer of faith" avails; but evidently it is not the sense which Dr. Stanton held.

Imagination is a strong factor in disease. Persons imagine themselves ailing and helpless when there is really nothing the matter with them. There are instances of persons being unable to walk for ten or fifteen years, simply for want of will. The general health is good; but there is a morbid conviction that walking is impossible and the feeling of helplessness is so strong that in ordinary circumstances it is invincible. An eminent physician is quoted as declaring that nine of every ten of his female patients "had no ailment whatever except their own fancies."

We have no doubt whatever that the Romish Knock miracles, and the St. Anne cures are wrought by the power of imagination. Girls are mostly the happy objects of these healings,—the probability being that the sickness was mainly imaginary.

It seems to us that the true Scriptural theory of healing by faith is—that the prayer of faith be accompanied by the use of means. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. We have the right to ask God's blessing on the use of means; and it is surely our duty to avail ourselves of the means which God has placed at our disposal.— Faith without works is dead: faith without the use of appropriate means does not deserve to be spoken of as faith at all. If your leg is broken, or your arm out of joint, you pray for Divine help, but you are not fool enough to neglect appropriate measures of relief. When your liver, or your head, or your nervous system is out of order, you are entitled in like manner to pray expecting the Divine blessing on the remedies which the skilful physician prescribes. It is as natural to expect a dislocated limb to be set right by "faith alone," as that "faith alone," should heal head or heart or stomach.

Health is a precious gift from God: we are bound to use it wisely, and preserve it with due care. But we have no more right to expect miracles for the restoration of our health than for the replenishing of the purse. — *Presbyterian Witness*.

SUCCESS IN JAPAN.

Speaking of the annual statements made by their missionaries in Japan the Commissioners say:—

Among many profoundly interesting and encouraging facts we call attention to the following:—

(1) God's Spirit has wrought in the schools with a mighty, pentecostal power; and in the largest of them, the one in Kioto, among its 160 students only ten are left unaffected by the divine influence.

(2) Of the twenty-two churches, fifteen are self-supporting. One of them, the Imobari Church, has never received any money from this Board, and, though not yet five years old, has 280 members. Moreover, all the native churches have, during the year, received in the aggregate less than \$600 from this Board, while they have themselves contributed \$7000 to the Lord's treasury.

(3) The native pastors have proved themselves to be men of zeal, courage, and sagacity, and upon their churches