

"Committee appointed by the Rural Deanery of Toronto for the purpose of conducting the mission of healing at St. James' Cathedral in June last, have reported that there were 1,402 persons who received the laying on of hands by Mr. James Moore Hickson.

"Of the total number there were 709 Anglicans, 123 Presbyterians, 142 Methodists, 43 Baptists, 9 Roman Catholics and 58 others of denominations not specified.

"There were a total of 1,231 enquires sent out, 685 replies were received from these. The results of the investigation are 53 cures, 152 cases of great improvement, 184 cases of noticeable improvement and 304 cases of no improvement.

"Of those replying 56 per cent. testified to having received some definite bodily blessing through the mission."

If one looks at the foregoing a number of points loom up at one. In the first place there were 1,402 treated by Mr. Hickson.

There were 1,231 enquiries sent out, and 685 made reply. That is 546 did not answer. Of the 685 who did answer there were 53 cures, 152 greatly improved, 184 noticeably improved, and 304 not improved. This we regard as a very poor showing.

Why were there so many unimproved? Take the total number of 1,402, and we find 53 cures, 336 improved to some extent. This leaves a balance of 1,103 that made no reply or admitted they were none the better for the treatment. Does faith limp in this fashion? Can it not cure all cases? Or can it only cure some mild ailments and fail in the hard cases? Or does it depend upon the recipient of the treatment?

But the report from the Committee is absolutely unconvincing, because the cases were not examined before and after treatment by competent observers to ascertain the real nature of the disease; and also how far the cures claimed are really cures, and if there was anything to cure. We would wish to know also what the improvements amount to. They may be in the class of the partially blind girl described by Dr. Tweedie, the eminent eye specialist. She was tested by him and her vision. She then went to some faith healer, and declared she was greatly improved. Dr. Tweedie then, again, examined her, and found her range of vision exactly the same as before the visit to the faith healer.

On former occasions we suggested that those cases treated by Mr. Hickson should be subjected to a full and exhaustive study by a committee of competent persons. On the committee there should be authorities on the various forms of disease, such as general medicine, general