

Tacitus records that the Emperor Vespasian, when at Alexandria, restored to sight a blind man by touching him with the imperial saliva, and cured a lame man by the application of his foot. The patients had been ordered in a vision by the god Serapis to present themselves to the Emperor, who would, in the manner indicated, effect their cure.

The Emperor Hadrian and Constantine were said to have possessed the gift of healing by the laying of their hands, and Pyrrhus, King of Epirus, could relieve pain by passing his foot over the prostrate sufferer. Even the temples of ancient Greece were the great therapeutic halls of the nation, where the priests were physicians who practised mesmerism and magnetic influences for the cure of disease.*

The workings of the imagination are potent both for good and for evil. All that is really wanting, is *faith*, and, as old Dan Chaucer has written :

“Lo, what a great thing is affection,
Men may die of imagination
So depe may be impression be take.”

HENRY PHILLIPS, JR.

THE MUTILATION OF COINS—A SUGGESTION.

AS the result of a practical joke, a sure way to prevent the mutilation of coins has been discovered. Recently, some one caused placards to be printed on cardboard, and exposed for sale at a news-stand in New York, which read as follows: “Notice to customers—The United States government has placed the following values on silver coins with holes in them: Dollars, 65 cents; half dollars, 35 cents; quarters, 15 cents; dimes, 5 cents; fives, 4 cents. These values are placed upon coins so punched with a view to calling in, and stopping the unlawful practice of mutilating money of the United States. Copies for sale at news-stand,” etc. The effect has been

*Howitt.