

A short time ago the people of Toronto were treated to a lecture by William D. Kilpatrick, who appeared in the Alexandra Theatre. With what he said about the religious opinions of the Christian Scientists we do not propose to say anything, as this is their own business. But we do propose to say something about the erroneous views put forth on disease. The following is quoted from the report of what Mr. Kilpatrick said, as given by the *Mail and Empire*:

"They could remember since Christian Science was discovered how it was ridiculed, laughed and scoffed at, persecuted and prosecuted for its revolutionary teaching that matter could not create or cure disease, and that all true therapeutics lay in an understanding of God or the Divine mind. But to-day they saw almost the complete abandonment of the theory that matter could heal, and this by members of a profession who a few short years ago proclaimed omnipotent powers for their nostrums. Many physicians to-day would declare that they seldom or never administer drugs for curative purposes."

In the first place, the statement "that matter could not create nor cure disease", and that Christian Scientists were ridiculed for teaching this. Now, all true Scientists know that such a view is absolutely wrong. The entire world of science knows that typhoid fever, diphtheria, syphilis, tuberculosis, pneumonia and many other of the scourges of humanity are due to germs, or organisms of some sort; and are as much the result of material causes as when a man has his leg shattered by a high explosive shell. That God may have placed these organisms in the world is another problem altogether, and does not in any way enter into the study of the causes and treatment of the diseases just named. We must deal with the germs and how to get rid of them. The farmer must sow his seed wheat, or he will have no crop; but he does not create the seed grain. The farmers must, however, study the habits of the wheat plant and the soil in which it grows best. In like manner the medical scientist must study the life habits of the disease-producing organisms in order that he may be able to cope with them, both in the matter of prevention and cure.

The next statement we call attention to is "that all true therapeutics lie in an understanding of God or the Divine mind." There is a sense in which this is true, but it is not the sense in which the Christian Scientists employ the term. It is true that the real scientist, the man who toils in the laboratory and the hospital wards, is ever in search of the laws of God. He is ever seeking for the conditions that favor or retard the growth of a certain bacterium. He is searching out the law of the matter. He is searching for the laws of disease, as the astronomer does for the laws of the stellar worlds. By this sort of research he does find