

that fifty years ago it was adopted by the most eminent of the medical profession, and who had the pleasure of reading a book on that subject, by Sir P. Duncan to the late Hon. Dr. Widmer. It fell almost into oblivion, owing to the materialistic tendencies of subsequent years, but of late has been revived through the wonderful revelations of microscopical research. Why Mrs. Stobart should designate this as the operation of the "unconscious mind" is not clear. The processes seem to be such as are entirely beyond, or outside, of mind, whether conscious or unconscious. Mrs. Stobart's contention is that "the conscious mind" needs to be reduced to "passivity," so as to "prepare the field for the undisturbed operations of the great healing agency." She even goes so far as to say that "whilst the mind that operates, unconsciously to man, possesses a healing power, which is from the human standpoint miraculous, the conscious mind of man works, on the contrary, more generally harmfully than beneficially in disease."

Mrs. Stobart quotes from various medical authors, Dr. Schofield, Dr. Clifford Allbutt, Sir B. W. Richardson, Sir Geo. Paget, Dr. Murchison, Dr. Shaw, and others, as to the effect of fear, grief, anger, excessive mental strain and mental anxiety in producing not merely functional, but organic disease of various organs, but asserts that "although it is undoubtedly the case that the conscious mind can, and frequently does exercise itself, in some cases, beneficially, it is yet much more frequently powerless or misdirected."

Mrs. Stobart seems to be in accord with Mrs. Eddy's remarkable assertion: "The less mind is manifested in matter, the better. When the unthinking lobster loses its claw, it grows again. If the science of life (*i.e.*, Christian Science) were understood, the human limb would be reproduced as readily as the lobster's claw." (Science and Health, p. 484.)

Mrs. Stobart says: "That the organizing force at work in the development of man is drifting ever more and more away from the physical outworks of his constitution, is further shown by the fact that in the scale of living organisms, it is those animals which are highest in the progressive order of evolution that are least under the influences of, and are least responsible (*sic*) to the non-material healing power, *e.g.*, the recuperative capacity shown by the snail, the spider, or the lobster, in re-growth of lost claws and antennae as compared with man's powers of restoration of lost limbs."

This deduction is, however, based upon the assumption that the restoration of lost members in these lowly organized creatures depends upon their low nervous organization, whereas it is just as reasonable to conclude that the "*vis medicatrix naturae*" thus makes special provision for the preservation of creatures with such limited nervous organization.