

more effectively exercised by some persons than by others, and this fact seems to explain the gifts of a special character claimed by various healers. While the religious influences do not essentially differ in operation from the non-religious appeals to the mind, yet the former may often be a most potent form of suggestion. The committee is forced to the conclusion that faith or spiritual healing is like all treatment by suggestion. It can be expected to be permanently effective only in cases of what are called functional disorders as distinct from organic ailments.

"Those who resort to healers, therefore, are warned that they may thereby be postponing until too late medical treatment which might serve to arrest organic disease. The committee desire to see increased importance attached to spiritual ministrations as a contributory means to recovery, but they strongly deprecate the independent treatment of disease by irresponsible and unqualified persons."

Such views, coming as they do from such a committee, after lengthy and careful consideration, must command the respect of all, and go a long way to clear the ground. Those who are guided by some strange emotion or even delusion can be set right by an appeal to this expression of opinion. It will also prove of much value in clearing the minds of court officials.

NATIONAL REWARD FOR MEDICAL DISCOVERIES.

It is very seldom that nations reward the members of the medical profession who make discoveries that have a far-reaching life-saving influence. In the United States on a few occasions money has been voted for this purpose. In Britain it was done in the case of Jenner on account of his investigations on smallpox and the preventive value of vaccination. In Germany some noted discoveries have been rewarded with positions of various kinds. The commonest way of rewarding these savants is by conferring upon them some title, or for the universities to give them honorary degrees. There have been a few noble examples where the medical profession and the public have done something by way of private subscriptions.

We have recently had a departure from these methods. The opening of this new movement was made a few days ago by Sir Ronald Ross. He has sent to the Chancellor of the Exchequer a petition to this effect and invites other men who have made useful discoveries to follow his example. Among other things he said in his communication the following:

"I take my stand upon two propositions," said Sir Ronald in an