

## THE RELIGIOUS CURE CRAZE.

It looks as if there was much danger of going to great extremes and committing much folly in the movement that is on foot in certain quarters along the lines of curing disease by religious influences. We have all seen the terrible evils of Dowicism and Christian Science. It may be that the "Emmanuel Treatment" so much bruited abroad in Boston and New York just now may end in disaster. Just recently the Bishop of London was asked to appoint a committee to look into the question of religious influences in the treatment of disease and to report thereon.

The medical profession are not ignorant of the immense value of suggestion. Good advice, admonition, and encouragement are all in the lines of suggestion. In the training of children in good habits, or the contamination of them by evil example are also largely matters of suggestion. We would utter a word of caution in all this.

We think the claims put forth by all these sects should be subjected to the same tests as those imposed upon scientific medicine. The cures so far all appear to be of what are known as functional disorders. Hysteria opens many a door for the inlet of humbug and fallacy.

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SOME ASPECTS OF ALCOHOLISM.

The subject of alcohol in health and disease has been the field on which many a battle royal has been fought. In the November issue of *Monthly Cyclopædia and Medical Bulletin*, there appears an article from the pen of Dr. Austin O'Malley, Ophthalmologist to St. Agnes' Hospital, Philadelphia, on this topic.

In the first place he states that alcoholism readily passes into insanity, and is a cause of degeneracy in children. If a man voluntarily takes alcohol to the point of intoxication he is responsible for the acts he may perform while under the influence of the alcohol. Parents are thus accountable for the nervous wrecks their drinking habits may give rise to in their descendants.

Chronic alcoholism causes many morbid changes in the tissues of the body. Among these may be named arteriosclerosis, nerve cell degeneration, wasting of the heart muscle, fatty changes in the liver and kidneys. The vaso-motor centres are disturbed and widespread derangements in nutrition must follow. The blood loses much of its power to carry to the tissues oxygen and to remove carbon dioxide.

Among the causes that lead to the excessive use of alcoholic stimulants may be mentioned a neuropathic nature, worry, disease that