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THERAPEUTICS AND DIVINITY.

I.

DIDACTIC USE OF TRUTHS IN HYGIENE—THEIR ANALOGY TO HIGHER TRUTHS—
PHRASEOLOGY—RESULTS THEREFROM—INSTANCES—INTERPRETATIONS.

It is surely not without significance that in the materials supplied to the Christian teacher for his use in the exercise of his office among his fellow-men, so many illustrations and confirmations should be drawn from considerations connected with human health and the art of healing. The expectation evidently was, that the subject matter of his teaching should be better understood by means of some study given to therapeutics; that truths of a high transcendental but yet, as we say, vitally important character were to be more clearly realized, and more readily welcomed, by virtue of an analogy perceived to exist between them and familiar commonplace facts coming within the personal experience of every one.

Were it fitting to do so here, the places might be enumerated in detail, wherein phraseology derived from considerations connected with human health is used by the authorities of the last resort among Christian teachers. It hardly needs to be said that the expression *hygiene*, expressive of something relating to wholeness or soundness, now become a household word amongst us, is almost pure Greek, the language in which the earliest and most revered of the Christian documents have been handed down to us. In those documents it might be shewn that at least twenty-five passages occur which involve the employment of the

root part of the word *hygiene*. Thirty-two at least might be pointed out, wherein we have the root or stem-part of the ordinary Greek word for physician—the word used in the memorable proverb “Physician! (*Iatre!*) heal thyself”—although it has happened that the stem of that particular term has scarcely found a lodgement in our English speech. (We have it however in one or two seldom-used expressions—as for example, in iatrical—relating to medicine or physicians, iatro chemist—a chemist physician; and iatroleptic, “that cures by anointing,” in Worcester; and elsewhere (Bailey vol. 2), in iatromathematician, “who considers diseases and their cause, mathematically, and prescribes according to mathematical proportions”)—Over fifty places might be cited wherein the root part of the first word at the head of this paper is employed in the same documents; often indeed only in the sense of useful *service* rendered in a general way, but often also in the restricted sense of *medical* help or service which alone attaches to “therapeutics” with us now.—Again, there is a large group of Greek terms applied to didactic use in Christian teaching, (one might count nearly two hundred of them), which also convey along with a general idea of soundness or wholeness, a special one nevertheless of soundness of health or restoration to soundness of health; from which group