

In these days of hypnotism, mesmerism, telepathy, clairvoyancy, Christian Science, etc., with peoples of highly developed nervous systems, susceptible and imaginative, much may be accomplished by suggestive therapeutics. We believe that it is the suggestion and mental effect in the so-called Christian Science that enable people to get control of themselves and to know they have no actual disease. Every practitioner has a number of patients in whom there is "nothing specially" wrong. We all know the class, and yet they are "of all men the most miserable." Life is a burden to them and I fancy we often make it more burdensome by our dosing. If they become discouraged and leave us they may wander into hands of a Christian (?) Scientist. Probably the latter's mode of treatment is successful. He or she is lauded to the skies, and odium rests upon the practitioner or practitioners through whose hands they pass. Often in treating this class of patients we prescribe in a perfunctory sort of way, as much as to say: "Well, try this medicine and we'll see what it does for you." This does not tend to inspire faith in us; and faith is a great, powerful element in every human being—faith in something. I have heard it said: "If Dr. — advised me to take a teaspoonful of Paris green I would do so." Even though faith be but the size of a grain of mustard seed it may remove mountains. We know not the limit of its power. If a patient have faith in his medical attendant he may give a bread pill, suggesting that it is a strong purgative, and free intestinal action may soon follow. A case that came under my notice some time ago was that of a woman who thought she had pneumonia. She had heard of a couple of fatal cases in the vicinity, which impressed her considerably. When I saw her she complained of shortness of breath, pain in the left lung, and numbness of the entire left side. The latter symptom was very prominent. There was complete hemi-anesthesia. As I examined her left chest (owing to her position she was unable to see me), I inquired if the pain in the lung were above or below the point of the stethoscope. She replied above, and yet she could not feel the prick of a pin anywhere on the left side. The lung was clear and I knew the condition to be hysterical. I informed her that I had no doubt whatever of her trouble and that I was confident I could help her. In order to increase her faith in me I told her there was always a sensitive spot on the calf of the leg. On the spot selected there was a small drop of blood which had exuded from a previous pin-prick which she had not felt. I applied a pin fairly vigorously which elicited no uncertain sound. I could not make her believe she had no disease, so left her some strychnine nit. 1-60 gr., to take one every six hours. Told her at 9 a.m. next day the numbness would have left her head and face, and would be leaving her shoulder and arm. Saw her at 11 a.m. and it was so. Told her next day at same hour it would have left her arm, shoulder and side, and would