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OUR SATURDAY EVENING HOME PAGE.

"Faith Healing."

REPORT OF CLERICAL AND MEDICAL COMMITTEE.

The Value of "Suggestion."

Three and a half years ago a conference of representatives of the clerical and medical professions met in St. John's Chapter House to discuss the development of "Spiritual" and "Faith" healing movements, and to consider such results as had been obtained for them. A special committee was nominated to report upon the best methods of closer co-operation between the two professions. A year later, in October, 1911, certain preliminary conclusions of this committee were unanimously adopted and published. An enlarged committee was also appointed to:

(a) Continue investigations into the meaning and scope of "Spiritual," "Faith" and "Mental" healing; (b) Consider how the dangers connected with such treatment by persons not medically qualified might best be guarded against; and (c) Promote all legitimate co-operation between the two professions. This committee have held 19 sittings, and their report is now published under the title of "Spiritual Healing: Report of a Clerical and Medical Committee of Inquiry into Spiritual Faith, and Mental Healing." (Macmillan, 1s.)

"Healers" Limitations. In presenting their conclusions the committee state that they are of opinion that the physical results of what is called "Faith" or "Spiritual" healing do not prove on investigation to be different from those of mental heal-

ing or healing by "suggestion." The term suggestion is used in this report in a wide sense as meaning the application of any natural mental process to the purposes of treatment. They recognize that suggestion is 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."

They are aware that no sharply-defined fundamental distinction can be drawn between "organic" and "functional" ailments. They are forced, however, to the conclusion, after the most careful inquiry, that "faith" or "spiritual" healing, like all treatment by suggestion, can be expected to be permanently effective only in cases of what are generally termed "functional" disorders. The alleged exceptions are so disputable that they cannot be taken into account. The committee would emphasize this point in order to warn those who resort to "healers" in the hope of receiving a permanent cure that they may thereby be postponing until too late the medical treatment which might serve to arrest organic disease.

Three appendices are added to these conclusions. The first provides a valuable note on "Suggestion" by Sir R. Douglas Powell; the second contains a list of the alleged diseases which had been treated by "spiritual healing." In the greater number of them no medical evidence was obtainable. The committee state that they have been unable to find an instance of the cure of so-called "incurable" illnesses by these means.

Let us make our education brave and preventive. Politics is an after-work, a poor patching. We are always a little late. The evil is done, the law is passed, and we begin the uphill agitation for repeal of that of which we ought to have prevented the enacting.

—Emerson.

Bismarck's Table Talks.

Some of Bismarck's table-talk is included in a new "Bismarck Calendar." Here is his comment upon an interview with Louis Napoleon: "After sitting for nearly an hour opposite Napoleon in the little room of the cottage near Sedan, I felt precisely as if I had done once when a young man at a ball after engaging a partner for a cotillon, to whom I could not say a single word, and of whom no one would relieve me." Of war he said that all military leaders say of it: "one of the statements being: 'I, for my part, will only resort to it in the most extreme cases of necessity.' Yet he said, too:

"Had it not been for me, there would have been three great wars the less; the lives of eighty thousand men would not have been sacrificed; and many parents, brothers, sisters and widows would not now be mourners. That, however, I have settled with my Maker."

In much the same strain is his comment upon the twelfth chapter of Romans, which he had been reading: "not indeed on the balcony by moonlight, but in my bed as the wind and rain beat at my window. It is a chapter from which one can easily learn how wicked and lacking in faith one actually is. I could have devoured my enemies over and over again when I was hungry; but to bless them—that would be something very different and exceptional, if I could only do it." Like men in humbler walks of life, he spoke contemptuously of his profession. "I never thought," he remarked, upon one occasion, "that in my riper years I should be obliged to carry on such an unworthy trade as that of a Parliamentary Minister. As envoy, though only an official, I still had the feeling of being a gentleman; as a Parliamentary Minister one is a helot." An uncommon use which he found for a common habit is explained in the following extract:

"When you enter on a discussion which may lead to vehement remarks, you should smoke. When one smokes, the cigar is held between the fingers; one must handle it, not allow it to fall, and thereby violent movements of the body are avoided or weakened. With regard to the mental condition, it does not deprive us of our intellectual capacity, but it produces a state of kindly repose."

The Lighter Side.

One of the guests at a wedding, seeing a dismal-looking young man who appeared to be on terms of familiarity with the principals, asked:

"Are you related to the bride or to the bridegroom-elect?"

"No," was the gloomy reply.

"Then," said the guest, "what interest have you in the ceremony?"

"Well," replied the young man, "I'm the defeated candidate."

An old man who looked like a countryman was walking along a London street playing a concertina that had seen better days. Noticing a brass plate with the words, "Doctor of Music," written under the name on it, he went up to the house and rang the bell. The door was answered by a servant, who asked his business: "Please, be the doctor in?" he asked. "Yes. What is it you want?" said the servant. "Why, just 'e pop in an' ax un hoo much 'e'll charge t' mend t' auld concertina," was the reply.

MINARD'S LINIMENT USED BY PHYSICIANS.

Noses to Order

New noses are being constructed by skillful surgeons, with fine results. Noses are built up from nothing—or next to nothing—for those who have lost their own by some accident; or noses are cut down to a normal size and shape for those who are victims of a not uncommon disease that brings about the growth of enormous and coarsely surfaced noses.

A Chicago surgeon freezes these big noses, cuts the skin off with a razor, and then proceeds to slice off all the knobs and bumps. He is careful to leave the sebaceous glands, which have to do with the skin; but the knobs can be cut off, because they are largely between the glands and the skin surface. With this precaution the skin will grow normally again.

At one large hospital noses are made out of the ribs of the patients. Rib cartilage is used to take the place of the normal cartilage of a nose, and with the cartilage is transplanted the necessary skin flap. With this material the adept surgeons model new noses so that they will look very like real ones.

The cartilage has been found to keep properly nourished, so that it does not act as a foreign body; and, at the same time, it does not proceed to grow in size.

Testing Seeds.

As it is essential the farmer shall sow the best possible seed, and as he cannot sow it if he has not got it, and does not know what sort of seed he has sown till it comes out of the ground, these simple home tests for germinating values of samples are given. By the blotting-paper method some slips of ordinary blotting-paper, 18 by 6 ins., are folded twice, so as to get three thicknesses, top and bottom, and laid on an ordinary dinner plate. If the grains to be tested are small they are laid on the blotting, if large between the folds, and the paper is kept moist (not soaked) in an atmosphere of about 70 or 80 degrees. It is better to work with a hundred grains, as the percentage is more easily arrived at. Every second day, in the case of seeds showing signs of growing, they should be removed and counted, and about the seventh day the balance may be counted out. Those which have germinated are deducted from the lifeless ones, and the result is the percentage of good seed in the parcel. The sand method is another which may be relied on as a home test, but the blotting-paper will give a good vitality result. A thin layer of fine sand is placed in the bottom of a glazed dish and the seeds are laid on the sand and under a layer of the same; this must be kept moist, and well shaded, at a slightly higher temperature than in the blotting-paper test. The procedure is the same in both cases: the number of seeds in 100 to sprout represents the vitality of the sample and of the parcel from which it is taken.

Try Again.

You have, it may be, used ointments, pastes, lotions for Eczema till you begin to get tired of trying things. Well, but you should remember that science is advancing all the time, and that what was not possible yesterday can be accomplished to-day. If you neglect to try Zylex—the newest and best thing that science has yet to offer for the relief and cure of Eczema and other annoying and disfiguring skin diseases—you are missing a great opportunity. It may be that it will cure you. It has cured some very bad cases. Price 50c. a box. Zylex Soap, 25c. a cake.

Items of Interest.

Copper may be easily cleansed with a cut lemon, dipped in salt.

Italian state railways will use 750,000 tons of Welsh coal this year.

Scotland produced about 65,000,000 gallons of oil from shale last year. Of the 37,000 electric vehicles in the United States, about 25,000 are pleasure cars.

A telephone transmitter that works perfectly when completely submerged in water is a novelty.

Semi-official statistics place Russia's beet-sugar production last season at about 1,703,240 short tons.

A rubber band around the belt of an alarm clock will lessen its noise without impairing its effectiveness.

With the opening of new cables to Ceylon, messages have been transmitted from London within half an hour.

For warming the feet a foot rail for steam radiators adjustable as to height and length has been invented. Goldfields in Northeastern Siberia which have not been worked since 1907 will be reopened early this year.

Harvard University has opened a special course for training men for the duties of municipal health officers.

The German pound is exactly one-half a kilogram or about one-tenth more than the American and English pound.

Adjustable canvas shields have been invented for protecting freshly transplanted trees from too much sunlight.

France will hold an international exposition of marine motors for vessels of all sizes from June to September.

The greenhouse attached to a hotel in Yellowstone Park, has been built over a hot spring to benefit by its heat.

Russia expects to produce 24,000,000 long tons of bituminous and 6,300,000 long tons of anthracite this year.

Tell Your Temper By Your Ways.

Experiments numbering over three hundred, conducted over a term of three years, have convinced Dr. J. Henson Hooker, of Nottingham Place that the rays emitted by the human body differ in color according to the character and temperament of the person, and he gives the following curious particulars in a letter to the Lancet:

The rays emanating from a very passionate man have a deep red hue, says Dr. Hooker, one whose keynote in life is to be good and to do good throws off pink rays. The ambitious man emits orange rays; the deep thinker, deep blue; the lover of art and refined surroundings, yellow; an anxious, depressed person, gray.

One who leads a low, debased life throws off muddy brown rays; a devotional, good meaning person, light green, and a physically or mentally ill one, a dark green.

"I know perfectly well," adds Dr. Hooker, "that these statements will be received by many with an amused smile of incredulity, as many other so-called discoveries at first; but I also know perfectly well that sooner or later they will become accepted facts. Nor is there anything remarkable or unreasonable in all this when we consider that man has been thousands of years (Max Muller is my authority) in evolving his color sense to its present point. There is no Sanskrit word the meaning of which has any reference to color. Later red and black were distinguished, and still later yellow, and then green.

"As our senses become more refined surely we will evolve the power of detecting more refined hues. We have not yet reached the point of finality in rays."

More Fires.

Fires provoke immediate sympathy for the sufferer and also thankfulness for personal escape. Another thought should be whether one is personally and sufficiently protected? An insurance policy with Perole Johnson would provide for you this desired security and at small expense. Have you enough insurance?

A Man

WHO DISCOVERED DIFFERENCE BETWEEN BEING 70 YEARS OLD AND 70 YEARS YOUNG.

A few days ago the press dispatches carried a paragraph about a man of 70 who applied for admission to a Missouri university as a student.

It is to be hoped the university took him in and gave him a chair, the chair which Ponce de Leon should have endowed, for example.

For that man knows more than any college course can teach him. He knows the secret of eternal youth.

He has discovered the difference between being 70 years old and being 70 years young.

He has learned that the secret of "growing old gracefully" is not to grow old at all.

Forgetting, in a personal sense, that time is behind him, he remembers only that eternity is ahead of him, or at least that it is wisdom to act as if it were, since no man knoweth to the contrary.

He knows that the man who plants his feet firmly upon To-day, with his eager, interested face turned toward To-morrow, is just as much alive at 70 as at 17. As much? More! He has experience, judgment, comparison, which mere youth, though it were sired by Genius and wedded to Power, cannot possibly have. In all life there is no substitute for having lived.

One thing only must the one-who-lives-lived remember—not to live IN experience, but FOR it.

In all eternity there is only one day—To-day. There are dead to-days which we call yesterday and unborn to-days which we call to-morrow.

These were, or will be, but To-day is the only day which IS.

Let us live it then as though it were the only day which had ever dawned and then, though we be 70 or 17, in the profound words of the Indian chieftain. "We have all the time there is."

Treating The Other Woman's Child.

They all sat round in friendly chat

Discussing mostly this and that,

And a hat.

Until a neighbor's wayward lad

Was seen to act in ways quite bad;

Oh, 'twas sad!

One thought she knew what must be done

With every child beneath the sun—

She had none.

And ere her yarn had been quite spun

Another's theories were begun—

She had one.

The third was not so sure she knew,

But thus and so she thought she'd do

She had two.

The next one added, "Let me see;

These things work out so differently."

She had three.

The fifth drew on her wisdom store

And said, "I'd have to think it o'er."

She had four.

And then one sighed, "I don't contrive

Fixed rules for boys, they're too

alive."

She had five.

"I know it leaves one in a fix,

This straightening of crooked sticks."

She had six.

And one declared, "There's no rule

at'n."

But do your best and trust to heav'n!"

She had seven.

—Woman's Home Companion.

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