

colic. No physician would stand idly by and see a patient's health ruined by ague, and not resort to the use of quinine. Guilty would be term for the doctor who failed to order mercury or salvarsan for the one afflicted with syphilis. All medical men have learned to appreciate the value of a brisk purgation in the coma of Bright's Disease. Then we must not forget the hundreds of thousands of operations that are performed with the patients under the influence of an anaesthetic, and all anaesthetics, general and local, are drugs.

The reasoning of the drugless healers is no better than the stupid student in logic who was requested to make a syllogism, and formed the following: "All men are bipeds, and geese are bipeds, therefore all men are geese." He failed to realize that he was working with wholly different premises. It would be just as good logic to state that "Some diseases can be treated without drugs"; or that, "because some drugs are injurious in some diseases, therefore, all diseases can be treated without drugs." This sort of reasoning can have no other effect than that of leading those who make use of it into the quagmires of folly.

The drugless healers fail to recognize that the term therapeutics covers all forms of treatment. The use of baths for the cure of disease is therapeutics. Instructions re the proper change of climatic is therapeutics. Regulating one's diet to remedy his indigestion is therapeutics. Ordering massage and rubbing for a patient is therapeutics. The plunging of a bistoury into an abscess is therapeutics. The application of forceps to effect the delivery of a child is therapeutics. Telling what sort and how much exercise he should take to benefit his heart is therapeutics. To give a dose of diphtheria antitoxin is therapeutics. A physic for constipation is therapeutics.

This should surely convince our drugless healers that it is utter folly to try to create a system of medicine out of rubbing, manipulation, and massage; or out of the horrid teaching of punching the spinal column for every ill; or out of a misleading form of suggestion founded upon ignorance, as is the practice with the Christian Scientist.

This sort of cult business and tying the mind up to some foolish dogma is most mischievous. The science of medical study is that the mind is trained to diagnose and treat disease, and the treatment may be by the aid of drugs, or by the employment of surgery with instruments, or by sending the patient away for change of air, or by regulating his diet, or by telling him how much exercise he should take, by rubbing and manipulating a stiff joint. But to single out manipulation as the osteopaths do, or the punching of the spinal column as is the practice with the chiropractor, or to resort to suggestion, with a prayer thrown in for