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### THE GREATEST DELUSION OF MODERN TIMES.

The agency of mind in transmuting primitive ideas and concepts into essential facts by means of such natural forces as experience and evolution, is about the most interesting thing in life. At the same time, it is a process much exposed to disease, because of the unbalanced relation and fluidity of the factors involved.

Most minds contain more belief, credulity, prejudice, fanatic energy, than critical capacity, judgment or perceptive power. Hence, errors and delusions are clung to, defended and propagated with enthusiasm worthy of a better cause.

Delusions are common in the history of mental evolution. The history of theology and medicine is full of them. Men have sacrificed their all and died for them.

The great promise of science is that it makes for sanity of judgment, putting us into possession of unwavering standards drawn from the study of laws and facts. Nowhere is positive certainty, the blessed reality of ascer-

tained truth, more needed or desired than in medicine and religion.

But there is a great deal of confusion as to what really constitutes science. Many delusions, fallacies and mushroom growths of the mind have masqueraded under the name of science and invoked the primitive qualities of mind — native credulity, belief, prejudice and enthusiasm—to support them.

Serum therapy, as represented by anti-toxin, is the most dangerous of delusions—dangerous because of the adventitious truth in the shape of the carbolic acid it contains, and because, also, in its very nature it can not be submitted to a genuine scientific test.

The only way to test the real therapeutic value of antitoxin would be to inject serum, free from antiseptics; and putrescible organic matter can not be introduced into the system without the protection of antiseptics.

On the other hand, however, the therapeutic value of the carbolic acid, per se, can be and has been, thoroughly tested, and found to be precisely that attributed to the serum. Hence, the scientific mind, free from prejudice, can not choose but reject the hypothesis, conjecture and surmises, which attempt to clothe antitoxin with the warrant of science by the simple device of borrowing the virtues of carbolic acid.

Many people have a mania for being regular, for going with the majority, which makes them unwilling to investigate a question upon its merits. This spirit is well enough so long as we tread the highway of well-established commonplaces, but when we branch off into an untried wilderness, then a