

A Century of Christian Science Healing

The next testimony and the poem which accompanies it throw light on the way in which healing may come in the face of even the most stubborn evidence of physical disability:

I HAVE EXPERIENCED quick healings in Christian Science, but I have also learned that, even if a healing does not come at once, it will still certainly come if the truth is persistently and correctly applied. About twenty years ago I began to lose the use of my legs. I sought help in Christian Science, but the condition grew worse until I was no longer able to attend to my professional work.

At the time I held an established post in the British Home Civil Service, and when my regulation sick leave was exhausted I was required to have a full medical examination in order that the authorities might decide on their next step. I agreed to the examination, but explained that I was relying on Christian Science for healing and did not desire any material treatment. An ambulance took me to a service hospital, where I spent a week under thorough medical examination. The surgeon in charge then told me that I was suffering from some form of paralysis for which there was little likelihood of cure. He also told my wife that I could not be cared for at home, as among other things bedsores would soon develop. I did not see his written report to my department, but the outcome was my being invalided from the service.

I returned home and was effectively cared for there without any special nursing attention. When bedsores began to develop, they were quickly healed by Christian Science. However, for almost ten years I was unable to stand or walk; I could only sit up for a short time each day, not always that. The difficulty in moving spread, and other complications developed. Several times it appeared that I was about to pass on. I could eat little and slept poorly. Our home, an upper flat in central London, was for four of these years under air attack. Financial supply had to be found, too.

The Tide of Healing

But all the time spiritual growth was going on through Christian Science. Sometimes I studied alone. Sometimes I had treatment from a steadfast practitioner, who brought me great inspiration. Always I had the unfailing support of my wife. When too weak to turn the pages of *Science and Health* I started to learn it by heart so as to grasp every detail. I learned more than half the book by heart. Its teachings were food and rest to me.

As I studied and received treatment, great spiritual joy filled me — joy that God governed and nothing could interfere with His purpose of present perfection and satisfaction for all. And with the joy came an ever keener sense of spiritual innocence, a perception that man, being the individual expression of divine Mind, could never have entertained at any moment any incorrect thinking which could have caused or could justify suffering. The recognition of good's allness and evil's nothingness followed and irresistibly took charge of the physical condition. In the tenth year improvement began. I started to walk again, and sleep and appetite returned to normal. There were setbacks, and certain readjustments were not easy, but step by step the healing was finally established.

Along with the physical healing, successive new opportunities for interesting work opened up. Sometimes these made demands which seemed beyond my strength at the moment; but as I went forward in God's strength, the demands were met. At last I found myself leading a fully active life again, occupied more satisfactorily than ever before. All the good of those years has remained with me; all the loss and evil are as though they had never been.

Peter J. Henniker-Heaton,
Cambridge, Massachusetts.

— *Journal*, Vol. 73, pp. 214-215
(April, 1955).

At a time when his physical condition seemed to be at its worst, the writer of the preceding testimony expressed his conviction of spiritual perfection in a poem which was later published in the *Christian Science Sentinel*. The

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poem is reprinted here for its evidence of the kind of understanding faith in God that moves mountains. The words Truth, Life, and Love are used in Christian Science as synonyms for God.

O Thou Unchanging Truth

PETER J. HENNIKER-HEATON

O THOU unchanging Truth, whose facts eternal
give us the courage to outface the storm,
to rise against the senses' swift alarm
and stand unmoved at Spirit's high tribunal,
Thy Word acquits us and Thy Word is final.

O THOU abundant Life, whose freshness daily
admits no common round, no dull routine,
this is our joy and this our discipline,
to take Thy gift of life and use it fully;
this is our highest task, to spend it freely.

O boundless Love, forever undiminished,
how far and little seems the lie of pain.
We were with Thee, before the world began,
and shall be with Thee, when the world has vanished;
Thy work is perfect and Thy work is finished.

— *Sentinel*, Vol. 44, p. 2179
(December 12, 1942).

A Christian Science practitioner's diagnosis of the mental and moral factors in a case that may need healing is wholly spiritual, and it is not normal for Christian Scientists to seek medical diagnosis. Thus a large number of diseased conditions which are healed in Christian Science cannot have a medical name attached to them with any certainty. However, many individuals turn to Christian Science for help after first employing medical aid; in some cases they have been under prolonged medical