

TEACHERS OF METAPHYSICS.

AN article on Christian Science in the Chicago Sunday Herald some weeks ago, closed with this wise admonition: "Be careful by whom you are taught; be careful by whom you are healed." The writer was evidently well posted on the operations of the mental healers in Chicago, and wrote the advice from the standpoint of an informed critic, directing the counsel especially to his Chicago contemporaries. He meant warning only against pretenders in the field of healing and teaching, but, speaking from the standpoint of a patient investigator and unprejudiced student of differences and likenesses in values, I beg the privilege of bringing the injunction to prospective students of Christian Science under authorized and commended instructors.

Student graduates of the Normal Course at the Metaphysical College, have done themselves great credit in the excellent instruction they have given their students in Christian Science, so far as they have gone in that instruction. And so far as the pupils of those teachers have been candidly informed of the fact that they were receiving instructions in the rudiments only of Christian Science (or metaphysical healing) so far is there no reproof, but only commendation for those teachers, and congratulation for their pupils. But when minds of superior abilities, wholly uninformed of the fact that it is primary instruction only that they receive from Normal College Students, are boldly informed by circulars, agents, or otherwise, that the same course of instruction is afforded by attendance upon their private classes, or "schools," as at the college, and are thereby deceived into taking what they suppose to be an equally advantageous course with that of the regularly chartered college, under the presidency of the discoverer of the science—*inestimable damage is done the cause, and many, many promising workers.*

This is being done. And moreover these "schools" and class-instructors are making the same charges for their rudimentary teaching that the Mass. Metaphysical College charges, after its reduction to students residing at a distance. Nobody can calculate the harm these measures are working. Clergymen, doctors, lawyers, teachers, writers, peculiarly qualified by

mental training and moral fitness to be an honor to our *alma mater*, to themselves, and to their communities, are tempted by these flattering programmes to spend their time and money for instructions which bring discredit on the Science, and dissatisfaction to themselves—because supposed to be the *bona fide* course in Christian healing.

I have seen many of these so-instructed students. They could give the letter of the law, as written in the book *Science and Health*, especially the chapter on healing; but from the unfoldment of their own spiritual understanding could not venture a single statement or explanation. They were aware of their inefficiencies and inabilities, but could not define where-in they failed, nor divine why they were so far from the goal of their stimulated, but disappointed, hopes.

No student (I speak from knowledge of facts) has ever yet been qualified to teach Christian Science, except rudimentarily. Their pupils are led lovingly and wisely, step by step, up the heights to the blessed inheritance of clear understanding, prepared for them from the foundation of the world, but—they leave them far, far short of even a gleam of its sunlit summit. They are not to blame for this. They must wait and grow to their strength through suffering and watchful prayer. But she whose life of cleansing sorrow left her the fit transparency for revelations straight from the infinite Source, teaches the science of God and His creations in all its divine completeness. No member of a class at the college ever left till he had ascended the full height of his understanding, borne thither by the strong pinions of our leader's inspiration.

It rests then wholly with himself whether he keeps forever in view that revelation, and conscientiously strives to make it the end of all attainment, or drops it from his after endeavor as too lofty to attempt. For this he alone is responsible. He cannot deny that he has caught the full meaning of prophecy and revelation, and been shown the way to God's saving presence.

History repeats itself, — not always identical in statement, (though often so), but ever identical in meaning and purpose. Moses, child of the promised land, was taken to Pisgah's mountain top and shown the fair fields of his inheritance.

There, under the clear stars by night, and under the burning sun of midday, he saw stretching to infinite distance the green plains, swelling rivers, purple hills, of prophecy. And a voice, like the voice of many waters, gave again the sweet assurance of possession. To me (I attempt this description with reverent awe), the words of my teacher on the theme of Spiritual Being were first as the gentle touch of a mother lifting the world-weary form of her wayward child to her bosom; then as the upbearing of an angel's wings, swift and direct, to the majestic heavens. There, like the rest of the saints, waited the heights of our pilgrimage—and far toward the never-ending horizon stretched the glorious inheritance of *pure understanding*. Spiritual vision was vividly clear. I was made to know Him face to face of whom I had heard by the hearing of the ear as a name only. I realized the reward "to him that overcometh" for an interval brief but long enough to fix forever in my mind the sweet consummation of faithful endeavor.

And I know that every single student that has ever studied under this "teacher sent from God" has realized it all. How great, then, the folly of falling back to earthly ambitions and earthly ends, by claiming to work the same miracle—for the pottage reward of a little publicity and a few hundred dollars! Surely, dear fellow students, in your ignorance you do so—not intentionally, thus to incur Divine displeasure.

E. HOPKINS.

"LET nothing disturb thee,
Nothing affright thee:
All things are passing;
God never changeth;
Patient endurance
Attaineth to all things;
Who God possesseth
In nothing is wanting;
Alone God sufficeth."

"Rest in the Lord; wait patiently for Him." In Hebrew, "be silent to God, and let Him mould thee." Keep still, and He will mould thee to right shape.

—Martin Luther.

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