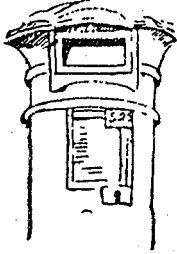


## Letters to the Editor.



*Whilst cordially inviting communications upon all subjects for these columns, we wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not in any way hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.*

### OUR GUINEA PRIZE FOR OCTOBER.

*To the Editor of the "British Journal of Nursing."*

DEAR MADAM,—I am very much obliged for cheque for £1 ls. received yesterday. I was very pleased at winning the prize for October.

Yours truly,

G. M. SMART.

5, Charlemont Terrace, Cork.

### CHRISTIAN SCIENCE.

*To the Editor of the "British Journal of Nursing."*

MADAM,—I do not think that the article you quote from *American Medicine* is representative of the attitude of the medical profession in the United States towards Christian Science, and I am sure that its strictures on the subject of the supposed antagonism of Christian Science to sanitation are ridiculous: one of the ablest presidents of the Sanitary Society in England was, indeed, a Christian Scientist. Christian Science preaches cleanliness in the most minute particulars as forcibly as the most uncompromising sanitary reformer. It insists that cleanliness is next to godliness because it understands that the more clearly the human mind grasps the meaning of purity, the more insistent it will become on the cleanliness of its surroundings. "I am not patient," Mrs. Eddy writes, on page 413 of *Science and Health*, "with a speck of dirt."

Again, no greater nonsense was ever written than the charge against Christian Science of depriving children of medical assistance. First, because the charge begs the entire question, in theory, by assuming that the healing of medical science is superior to that of Christian science; and, secondly, because, in practice, the situation never arises. If the children of Christian scientists are ill, which they comparatively rarely are, medical assistance of the ordinary description is supplied to them, not because their parents have any faith in it, they still trust to Christian Science for the healing, but because they realise the enormities the law on the subject was intended to combat, and are anxious to do nothing which may make easier the perpetration of those enormities.

If Christian Science was a mere bundle of hysterical vagaries, it would have collapsed long ago. As it is, it is a sane and scientific attempt to place healing on an idealistic instead of a materialistic basis. For centuries many of the deepest thinkers have attributed physical phenomena to mental causes. It is a theory which has been stated by one

of the most eminent of living natural scientists, himself an Oxford gold medallist, in the definition, "Matter is only a thing imagined, which we have constructed for ourselves, very imperfectly to represent the constant element in the changing series of phenomena."

Christian Science pushes this theory to its logical conclusion, and, instead of taking refuge, like Berkeley, in an abortive system of drug-taking, proceeds to combat sickness by dealing not with the physical phenomena, but with the mental causes; not by doctoring symptoms, but by discovering and destroying the hidden and commonly unsuspected seeds, not in the human organism but in the human mind.

Except in later theology, the word miracle never had a supernatural meaning. The miracles of Christian Science are miraculous in the same sense that the miracles of primitive Christianity were miraculous. That is to say that they are extraordinary or wonderful to minds trained to believe that the healing of physical phenomena can only be brought about along material lines.

Yours faithfully,

FREDERICK DIXON.

Clun House,

Surrey Street, Strand, W.C.

### AN INDEFENSIBLE PROCEEDING.

*To the Editor of the "British Journal of Nursing."*

DEAR MADAM,—Relying on your judgment in all matters of fair play, I ask you whether the woman guilty of the terrible offence mentioned in the enclosed cutting should have a more severe sentence meted out for making the remark: "Pity I didn't"?

Yours faithfully,

ENQUIRER.

Burgh-by-Sands.

[The case alluded to is that of a woman who pleaded guilty to throwing vitriol at her husband—fortunately without inflicting bodily harm—from whom she was separated. Upon the Judge remarking that she might have blinded him the prisoner replied, in a low voice: "Pity I didn't!" Thereupon the Judge remarked: "I have no hesitation in passing a more severe sentence upon you than I first intended. It will be penal servitude for three years." We strongly deprecate the horrible crime, but we are of opinion that the growing frequency of Judges expressing personal opinions from what should be the seat of Justice, parleying with women prisoners, or passing judgment on them for conduct for which they are not being tried, is highly dangerous to personal liberty, and indefensible. We doubt if they would venture thus to prejudice their character for impartiality where male prisoners are concerned.—Ed.]

## Notices.

### OUR PUZZLE PRIZE.

Rules for competing for the Pictorial Puzzles. Prize will be found on Advertisement page xii.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)