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The Truth About Healing.

VOLUME I.

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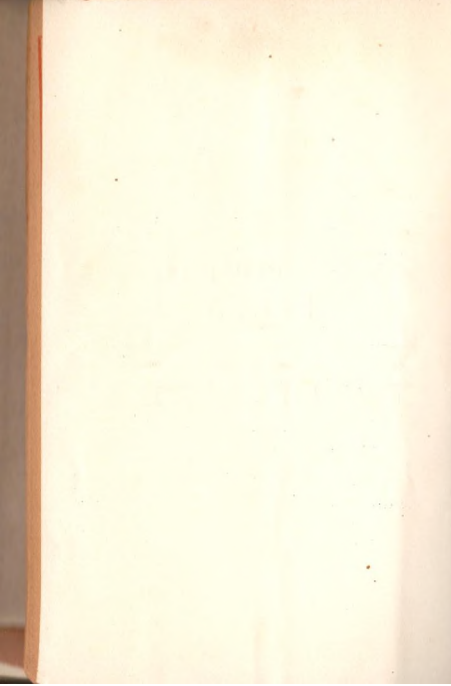
Faith and Suggestion.

S. LINCOLN BISHOP.

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PREFACE.

It is the intention of the writer of these booklets to tell the honest truth about healing. There are books and books along new thought lines and they all contain many good things, but it seems to me that none of them have succeeded in making the subject plain and practical. In all the history of the race there has never been so many methods and theories about diseases and healing, never so many "schools of medicine," never so many "patent remedies," never so many religions, never so many mental science, Christian science, divine science and faith cures as there is today. And with it all there has never been so much suffering and disease. There are "voices crying in the wilderness" on every hand but they only increase the tangle in the skein. It is the hope of the writer that he may be able to throw some ray of light into the night of darkness that will help to straighten things out, and bring order and harmony where all is now chaotic disorder and confusion. That I will succeed with *every* reader of these pages is more than I can hope to do, but if I can succeed in helping only a few bewildered souls to a higher understanding of the *Spiritual Law that lies behind all healing* I will not have written in vain.

S. L. B.

FAITH AND SUGGESTION.

"As thy faith is so is it unto thee."

A regular practicing physician gives to his sick patient a dose of poisonous drugs, believing that it will cure him. The patient *has faith* in the remedy and gets well. Another doctor gives a dose of bread pills under the same conditions and results are the same. Another bottles up some cold water, orders his patient to take just a certain number of drops and to be very careful to not take any more than the directions call for. The patient does as he is told, his fever leaves him and he is well. A priest, with a small piece of bone, said to be from St. Ann's arm, heals many of his parishoners.

A certain man had a very badly injured leg. The regular doctors said it must come off. The man would not consent. One day a stranger came along, who was noted as a wonderful healer. He mysteriously passed a small piece of yellow string over the lame man's leg three times and then threw the string away, but at the same time making many mysterious gestures and giving the cripple the suggestion that he would be well in three days. It came to pass according to the word of the mysterious healer.

A woman had a case of chronic constipation of thirty years standing. A magnetic healer cured her with one dose of magnetized water. Jesus spit on the ground and made some mud,

which he put upon the eyes of the blind man, and his eyes were opened. Sick people sent their handkerchiefs, aprons, &c., to Paul and he healed them.—The elders of the church, by anointing with oil and by prayer, in the days when the church was not so materialistic as it is to-day, used to heal the sick. A lady was delirious with fever. So delirious, in fact that she did not know any one who came near her. A healer laid his hands on her head and gave her the mental suggestion that her fever would leave her. In half an hour her fever was gone and she slept all night and awoke next morning perfectly well.

A neighbor's little boy got a very ugly splinter in the bottom of his foot. Ordinarily it would have lamed him for several days. A suggestive therapist took it out for him and then, looking him squarely in the eyes, gave him the suggestion that in half an hour he would have forgotten all about it and there would be no wound. The suggester's words were verified.

The hypnotic subject had a hat pin stuck through the tenderest part of his cheek. It caused no pain and left no wound. To my certain knowledge, thousands of patients, many of them cases that the best doctors in the country have pronounced incurable, are healed by "absent treatments."

I could fill volumes with cases that have been healed in a thousand different ways. In all ages and among all nations or tribes, ten thousand methods have been tried with more or less success and, of course about as many failures as successes.

It would be almost an impossibility to think of anything on earth or in heaven that has not been offered by some one as a certain cure-all for all the ills of the human race. The nastiest, foulest, most superstitious and least reasonable things, however, have been offered by the *regular practicing medicine men*. Such as dried toads, snakes, lizzards, excrement of men and animals, menstrual blood, &c., *have* been on the list offered by the regular doctors as scientific and sure cure remedies.

The filthy drugs and poisons that they use to-day are little, if any better. I am convinced that of all the filthy, unreasonable stuff that was ever used by the medical profession, the blood-poisoning vaccine virus that they insist on putting into the arms of innocent school children all over the civilized world, with the law to back them up in their ignorant and filthy practice, is the worst. If there ever was a remedy that is a complete failure and did ten thousand times more harm than good, if there ever was a thing tried that was based upon ignorance and mere, impractical theory, vaccination is the one, par excellence, of all the others. But it is not my purpose to discuss any one method. The object is to get at the real healing power that is back of all methods. In the first place, why do people get sick and need healing? There is as many theories about this matter as there are remedies. Every remedy that is offered has its theory based upon plausible reasoning and all claiming to be altogether scientific, every one calling all the rest ignorant and

unscientific, until there is such a jumble of noise and confusion that the wonder is, not that many are healed, but that *any* are healed, yes that all are not driven to insanity or suicide to get out of the chaotic confusion. *The "new thought" healers have not solved the problem.* They have only added another quality to the deafening noise that already existed; but with all their jumble of high sounding words, only a very few of them have a knowledge of the *Spiritual Law* that is back of *all* healing.

He who runs after this method or that method and rides it for a hobby is in a fair way to reach the insane asylum if death does not come to the rescue and save him; and yet every last thing that has ever been tried has been successful in many cases where all other remedies have failed. Why is it true? Because *suggestion and faith* are at the bottom of all of them. Jesus and his disciples, nearly always said, "thy faith hath made thee whole." The evidence goes to prove that it does not make any difference whether the faith is in a Joss stick, a piece of bone, a dose of the regular practitioner's poison, an old witch's charm, a mental healer, a prayer to God, or what not, just so the faith is there the *spirit of the patient does the work*. Why should it not do the work? What else could possibly do it if the spirit cannot? Has not the spirit builded the body and cannot the spirit repair that which it has builded? I know that some of the much advertised mental healers say that faith has nothing to do with it, but if the patient has

faith enough to send his money and take the mental remedy there is certainly some faith. Whenever a healer says there is no faith required, he is either ignorant or else is after the almighty dollar without caring whether he gives a just equivalent for it or not. Any regular physician knows that if the patient has no faith in him or his medicine he cannot do anything with that case. *A man's faith is the trust he puts in what he believes to be the truth. Faith then is trust in the truth and truth is all powerful.* Truth is not a respecter of methods. We may choose our own methods and if our trust in the truth, as we understand it, is stronger than the condition of inharmony that afflicts us, the "*truth will surely make us free.*" When we know the truth it will make us free and there is not another thing in all the universe that will do it. To discuss methods and remedies is worse than a waste of time. It is like discussing modes of baptism. It only increases the noise and confusion and makes the darkness only more dense. *Faith in the truth*, in whatever guise it may be presented to us, is the only thing that can heal us. If our highest conception of a method is in a dose of poison that is the very remedy we need so long as it *is* our highest conception. If we believe in a mental healer a thousand miles away more than anything else, that is surely the channel through which the power of truth can work best upon us. But in every case our faith makes us whole. *Our faith in the truth and nothing else.*

But there is one other thing that enters into the calculation. Suggestion comes in with a claim for consideration equal to that of faith. Methods are only means of giving suggestions. *And what are suggestions? Why, most truly means of presenting truth to another.* If I believe that another person or thing has a truth, upon any line that I do not have, that person or thing can give me a suggestion or thought of truth, that will take hold of my consciousness and help me to a higher understanding of the spiritual law of my being. The healer is supposed to know more of the Law of health than the patient. He gives the patient suggestions, by some material remedy, by mental power, by word of mouth or in any way that seems best to him. If the patient's faith, or trust in the truth presented, is stronger than the suggestion or thought of inharmony that afflicts him he gets well. But if the suggestion of disease is stronger than the suggestion of health he does not get well of course. The healer, to be successful must thoroughly believe or have faith in the suggestions that he gives. He must 'speak as one having authority,' not doubting his own statement. If he makes a statement with his mouth only, not knowing in his heart it is true, the suggestion of truth that he sends will never go beyond the physical ears of his patient. The *spirit* of the patient will never hear it and it will not do him any good. Thoughts are really things. They are vibrations of truth. Yes, *all thoughts are vibrations of truth* even though they may be mis-stated truths.

Every thought created in the human mind and sent out into the world goes out with a mission for good or evil. It is powerful according to the *knowing* power of the mind that sent it forth on its mission. If it is mis-stated truth it accomplishes evil, but if it is truth stated in wisdom and love its mission is good. It goes out upon the circle of its mission and brings back to the sender multiplied power of that which he sent it out to accomplish. If he has sent it out upon a mission of evil it will surely return to him in its allotted time with a power of evil. If he keeps up sending out thoughts of evil they will in time consume him, for they are a consuming fire that burns the wicked with unquenchable certainty. But he who sends out only thoughts of wisdom and love is multiplied and builded up with more and more power all the time until all his ways are full of joy and gladness. Evil consumes, but good upbuilds and justice will in all cases finally prevail. Thus it is that we can help each other. Thus it is that we will always help each other. No one can go off alone and grow by himself, a bit more than one planet can go off in some corner of the universe and resolve to have nothing to do with any influence from any of the other planets. *We cannot crawl off into some corner by ourselves.* The thing that we must all learn to do is to give suggestions of good, believing fully in their power to do the work that we send to them to do. If we send them out laden and crippled with doubts and unbelief in their power they cannot accomplish much, aye, not any thing except

to exhaust our own strength and, if our patient receives them, all burdened with doubt, they do him an injury instead of good. We must learn to trust—to *have faith*—in our own power and to give out all the time only the very highest and best truths that we comprehend. It matters not what another conceives as truth, that can have nothing to do with us. Truth to *us* is what *we* conceive as real and not what another conceives. It is this spirit of truth, that is within each and every one of us, that "doeth all things." We must trust our highest understanding of the reality of our own being. When we give out thoughts or suggestions, no difference what method we believe in as a means to convey the suggestion to the consciousness of the patient, we must give them believing in our hearts that they have power to do the work that we send them to do. If we *believe* all things are possible and there is no power in the universe that can prevent the results being all that we desire them to be. But we must remember that no one can outrage the personality of another. If the patient does not have faith in us and the power of the suggestions that we send to him, they will never reach his spirit or consciousness of truth. I do not mean his superficial consciousness but his deeper spiritual consciousness. His sub-consciousness, as some writers put it. The condition at which we each and every one should arrive is to have *perfect and absolute faith in ourselves to receive* suggestions of good from any one to whom we wish to apply for help, and faith in ourselves to *give out* the very highest and

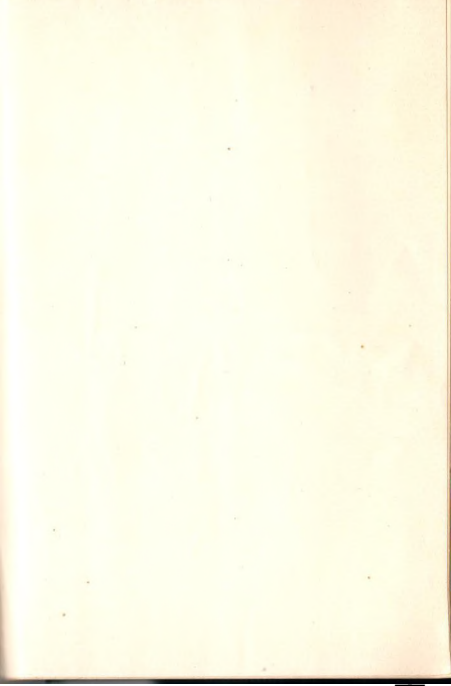
best thoughts of truth that we can possibly create, to all who apply to us. It is the *Spiritual Law* to both give and receive. It is the one and only law of justice. The greatest mistake that any one ever made is to conclude that he does not need help from any one else. *The Law of giving and receiving from each other is the very law of healing.* It is the one and only road to mastery and power that will make the circle of a completed spirituality. To sum the whole matter up *all* healing of whatever name or cult, is embodied in *faith and suggestion*. In making ourselves passive to receive truth from others and positive to give out truth to others, adopting such means to convey the suggestions that we give, or the suggestions that we wish to receive, as our state of consciousness conceives as the most reasonable at the time.

Let us stop this cavil about methods and go down into the deeper consciousness of the spirit and reason from the standpoint of what is wise and desirable. This is wisdom, and when we recognize the law of *giving and receiving* in ourselves and others, and trust it, believing in our hearts in its infinite power, we are indeed clothed with all power to grow daily into greater things and to do greater things than has ever been done by any one. This is the point to which the race is rapidly advancing and, when the mists and clouds that are caused by the confusion of methods has cleared away, the power of *faith and suggestion* will be known to be the one great Law of eternal unfoldment.

Faith, trust in truth, is the door that we must open for more truth to flow into us. Suggestion, the giving out of that which we have already received, is the channel by which we grow into greater things. The inflow and the outflow must both be free and untrammelled. If we block the way with doubts and unbelief we will stagnate and die. The law will not permit any stoppage of its free operation and the circuit of its action is perfected only by clearness of the inflow and the outflow through our consciousness of being. The study of methods is profitable only as a means of information as to what others have done. Methods are not the law, and he who would be a successful healer must first trust the truth of what he already knows and evolve his own methods or else make the inventions of others his own by believing in them with all his heart. I am not going to invent some new method. There are more methods and theories now than ever before, and every one is at liberty to take his choice. I do not care what kind of a vessel you carry your truth in. *I think the most reasonable and the cleanest vessel is pure thought*, but if some one prefers a bitter pill, there is no reason why he should not have his truth in that kind of a vessel. If he trusts the truth it will do the work even if it is carried in a coating of clay and spittle. But he who does not trust the truth, he who distrusts more than he trusts, shuts the truth out of his being and fails to receive it. "Behold I stand at the door and knock, if any man will open unto me I will come in and sup with him." But if you bar the

door with unbelief, if you will not be passive to receive, Truth cannot enter. If I shut the window of my soul with unbelief and will not trust the truth that has already come into my being, if I give not forth that which I have received, I stop my capacity to receive anything more and cut off the circuit of truth through me. Just as certainly as I do that I will die. The law of giving and receiving is the Law of the Universe. It is the channel of God through our souls. I cannot accept the statement that it is more blessed to give than receive. One is equal to the other. Unless I receive I cannot give and unless I give I cannot receive. The truth will make us free when we allow it to flow freely through us with perfect faith in its inflow and perfect belief in its outflow. Then we will be free indeed.





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