

Editor's Note: Ann Beals, publisher and editor of The Bookmark, is kindly allowing us to bring our readers her article-ELECTRICITY. Ann is a lifelong Christian Scientist and former member of The Mother Church. She was a Journal listed practitioner and wrote metaphysical articles for the Christian Science Periodicals. In 1980, after leaving the Organization, she established The Bookmark as a source of literature for the serious student of Christian Science. It offers writings that conform strictly to the teachings of Mary Baker Eddy.

ELECTRICITY

[This article is composed of selections from a number of early papers on electricity. There was much repetition of certain ideas in these papers, suggesting that the different teachers used certain basic ideas that probably originated with Mrs. Eddy. Some of these papers were attributed to Mary Baker Eddy, Pamela Leonard, Bicknell Young, Martha Wilcox, and Charles Tennant, while some had no name on them. Collected into one article, they present a very helpful insight into handling electricity.]

Electricity is a counterfeit power. In the third edition of Science and Health, Mrs. Eddy speaks of the "electricity of mortal mind" and calls it "the essence of mortal and erring mind that counterfeits that essence of unerring and eternal Mind, termed Holy Ghost." In the present edition of the textbook, we read, "Good does not create a mind susceptible of causing evil, for evil is the opposing error and not the truth of creation. Destructive electricity is not the offspring of infinite good." It claims to be the highest attenuation of mortal mind.

Magnetic beliefs, attracting and repelling in a claim of positive and negative electrical thought-forces, claims to determine its own objective state or phenomena until destroyed by the Christ-power. Electricity is generated by hate, fear, doubt, anger, greed, grief, etc. Criticism, condemnation, censure, are all claims of destructive electricity, and you should handle the claim of electricity in all of your thinking.

Mr. Kimball quotes Mrs. Eddy as saying, "Electricity is the thought essence which forms the link between matter and mortal mind. God, the divine Mind, self-existing, self-perpetuating, self-energizing, is the great universal reservoir or

dynamo, and the thoughts which flow from this fountain, constituting the complete expression of infinite Mind, Spirit, are thus shown to be Principle or Life, and action to be the manifestation of spiritual force and power".

Electricity counterfeits the divine energy. Since mortal mind is the claim of negative emotions and material beliefs, this mind seems to emit the destructive and harmful energy called electricity. Science and Health states, "Electricity is not a vital fluid, but the least material form of illusive consciousness — the material mindlessness which forms no link between matter and Mind, and which destroys itself." Electricity is the opposite of spirituality or Truth. It is the most subtle form of animal magnetism to be overcome. It constantly argues, "You can't handle me — I am all-powerful." But it is bodiless, mindless, homeless. It acts and works through the substance of nerves, always attacking through the mortal nature.

Materia medica and mortal mind declare the body to be made up of electrons, so it is important to handle electricity in every treatment. Mrs. Eddy classifies electricity with mesmerism, occultism, hypnotism, etc. The belief is that it is a powerful agency in human thought.

All claims of conflict and opposition in what we call animal magnetism and malpractice, can be recognized as the claim of destructive electricity, but the fact remains that there is no destructive electricity because all substance expresses within itself only the qualities of the Father-Mother God, existing as God's own identity. There is no electricity in God's image and likeness, the one and only man.

Manipulation is electricity. Mrs. Eddy writes in the textbook, "When you manipulate patients, you trust in electricity and magnetism more than in Truth; and for this reason you employ matter rather than Mind."

Electricity the Claim of Opposites

Electricity claims to attract and repel. Therefore all of mortal mind is a claim of electricity, because it is all a claim of opposites; a claim of good and evil, mind and matter, love and hate; a claim of the positive and negative acting and reacting; a claim of magnetism attracting and repelling; a claim of antichrist or resistance to Christ; a claim of positive evil and negative good; all of it a claim of the magnetic power of electricity. Mrs. Eddy once told a student, "Operating in the individual, it

claims to attract evil to that individual and to repel good, and when the claim refuses to yield to treatment, it is because the repelling force of electricity claims to be greater than the attracting power of Truth. In the claim of supply, the so-called power of electricity repels the manifestation of the affluence of good, attracts fear of limitation and its seeming manifestation."

The denial of electricity as existence, presence, or power, destroys the root of all evil and its seeming manifestation, and frees man to reflect and manifest the Truth and its infinite form of good.

Electricity and Physical Claims

It is always well to handle the belief of electricity in cases of nervousness and excitability, and in cases of acidity. Nervousness is electrification. Often in the home and church and places of business, mental friction is generated as electrical waves or currents, and the result is misunderstanding and separation. Electricity or static magnetism expresses itself in stress, friction, the tension of intense living. At one time a Christian Scientist had a skin problem on his hands, for which he had treatment for a long time. But when he took up static electricity, he was healed. Static electricity is often the cause of skin problems — eczema, dryness, irritation, etc. Physicians apply a solvent of some kind. We meet it with the solvent of Love.

Know that there cannot be any mental telegraphy or telepathy or mental electrocution through a belief in vibration or the power of electricity, no mental assassination produced hypnotically through a belief in vibration or the power of electricity. Know that there is no electrical or chemical poison. Declare daily for yourself: I cannot be negatively electrified. Electricity claims to govern and control man. It claims dominion over him. But God gave man dominion over all. Elementary static electricity cannot govern, control, or destroy man. We must know that the only currents are the healing currents of Truth. Be positive, spiritually minded, and know that the "calm, strong currents of true spirituality" alone regulate and govern man's life. We do not live in a field of electro-magnetism. We live in a field of divine Love. If all that we call electricity were drained out of the universe, the divine energy of Spirit would continue undisturbed in creating, governing and sustaining the whole of creation.

Electricity and Sexuality

Electricity claims to be within a body, and this works more subtly than an embodied form of evil. In what we call evil man, we see evil there and connect it with the form of a man; thus electricity claims to have its body by using bodies. It is what claims to be an evil man. In the matter of sex attraction, it claims to use two bodies, and this is its embodiment — the embodiment of electricity forcing or creating by its action another body, all the time being so illusive that it appears to have no body. Electricity works as sex attraction, or by reversal or reaction as sex friction. This is the foundation for hate or malpractice of all kinds, including sin, sickness and death.

The denial of electricity as presence or power destroys the root of evil, and man is free to manifest the Truth and its infinite forms of good. Therefore the importance of claiming that you cannot be negatively electrified. We read in Science and Health, "Passions and appetites must end in pain. They are 'of few days, and full of trouble.' Their supposed joys are cheats. Their narrow limits belittle their gratifications, and hedge about their achievements with thorns." Electricity is only a state of mind. Aggressive mental suggestion claims to function as destructive electrical influence. All there is to the claim of so-called destructive electricity is conflicting mortal opinions and beliefs. Again we read in the textbook, "Science shows that material, conflicting mortal opinions and beliefs emit the effects of error at all times, but this atmosphere of mortal mind cannot be destructive to morals and health when it is opposed promptly and persistently by Christian Science. Truth and Love antidote this mental miasma, and thus invigorate and sustain existence."

Handle the claim of sex antagonism by first denying it and then translating it into the spiritual counterfact — the male and female of God's creating, masculine wisdom and feminine love, which co-exist as the two-fold nature of the infinite God reflected as individual man, and not as positive male and negative female. Each individual exists as the complete unfoldment of the two-fold nature of the Father-Mother God. Discern the equality of masculine wisdom and feminine love in the Christ-consciousness. There is no superior male or female. To the male and female of God's creating, wisdom and love exist as the all-harmonious one in the individual consciousness — the Christ-consciousness of scientific understanding and spiritual discernment.

A student of Christian Science worked out a beautiful healing of kidney trouble by handling the claim of sex antagonism. She discerned that there was no antagonism or friction between the male and female of God's creating, between masculine wisdom and feminine love, scientific understanding and spiritual discernment, to set up the irritation that seemed to be present between husband and wife. She discerned that the manhood and womanhood of God — masculine wisdom and feminine love — had never been separated from or antagonistic to each other; but that man expresses God's two-fold nature of Love and Truth, masculine wisdom and feminine love, scientific understanding and spiritual discernment, and is the complete manifestation of the divine idea. The healing was accomplished in one treatment. Was that not a beautiful healing of the claim of electricity, a claim of positive and negative seeming to operate as sex friction, sex antagonism. The kidney trouble was caused by the conflicting beliefs entertained in consciousness. This illustrates how a claim of error can be met by handling electricity.

What is the scientific reality of which sexual intercourse is the counterfeit? It is the recognition and realization through communion with God, of man as a perfect, complete idea, masculine and feminine. That which is true of yourself as a complete reflection of Father-Mother God, is true of every individual in the universe, and reveals God and His creation perfect and eternal. Mortals are struggling for completeness and hope to find it through sexual intercourse; when in fact, this desire is simply the divine idea struggling to express itself in its completeness. A recognition of this brings compassion, tenderness, and love for the poor struggling heart — and the conviction that there is no sin.

Electricity cannot convey passion to nerve centers. There is one infinite Mind, and that Mind is our mind and governs us. All thoughts come to us from this Mind and return to their source. In this Mind, there is no material sense, no other mind to tempt, harm, or control. Know this, realize this, and you are master of yourself and others.

The claim of electricity is only some belief objectified — fear, suspicion, greed; therefore translate it back into the counterfact of reality, the spiritual discernment of the one harmonious, spontaneous power of Truth and Love. There is no friction, no conflict, no magnetic curse, no opposing force, because there is only the one great infinite Mind-power, one limitless thought-force of Love, the force of Spirit,

the spiritual discernment of Love, Life, Truth, unfolding, embracing, and constituting its perfect, harmonious identity. You and your Father-Mother God are one — the one of spiritual discernment, the infinite I AM. Everything has to be translated back into Spirit, its counterpart. So do not be negative; be positive to false suggestion. Claim that animal magnetism cannot send electric currents to affect nerve centers or mucous membranes, or bring any false beliefs of error upon you.

Do not Be a Conductor

The word aura means (according to the dictionary) attraction between two bodies possessing unlike charges of electricity, mentally thrilling, shock, etc. The belief of electricity is the most subtle influence there is today — and the most invisible. But it needs a contact in order to experience results — a conductor or matter contact. It is a counterfeit of God and claims to permeate the mortal body by contact with another body.

How would it be possible to be a medium or conductor for electricity? By admitting the lie and making real this unseen agency. There must be a contact with evil, and the only contact there is, is admission. Handle every claim as a belief of electricity. Roman Catholicism is the belief that it knows everything, God and man and priest in between. There must be a medium and the medium is the admission.

Mortal mind says it must have contact with something else to be complete. The contact is that of admission. God needs no medium through which to express Himself; so if you remember that the admission is the contact, you can maintain dominion. There claims to be a repellent power in this belief, also an attraction — Love the attraction and hate the repeller. Every belief is a claim of a positive and negative power — good and evil.

We must learn how to refuse contact; if we admit instead of refuse, then we are electrified, and this knowledge helps to meet all claims. Remember, electricity claims to permeate the body.

The main idea is that electricity claims to be a creator, to cause conception, and therefore mortal birth. So in handling any claim of electrical conception, mortal birth must be denied, including sex attraction and sex friction.

Electrical Poison

Electrical poison claims to send electrical poison to nerve centers, sometimes producing paralysis. Our leader once called one of her students to her home, and upon her arrival asked her, "Do you know how to handle electrical poison? If you do not, you can be of no service to Mother, and you might as well return home."

At another time she said to a student, "Do you understand the handling of electrical poisoning? It is mental thought transference with malice behind it — with an intent to harm. Mortal mind sends its messages without wires. It is aggressive mental suggestion maliciously directed."

The following was found on a flyleaf of one of Mrs. Eddy's books: "Man being God's image and nature and expression, cannot absorb, secrete, or accumulate any mental poison. Mental poison is the mental atmosphere of conflicting human opinions and beliefs. Electricity has no power to send poison through the pneumogastric nerve to cause gas and fermentation. Poison has no active principle, no modus operandi or chemical effect or consequence. Every Christian Science treatment is the operation and enforcement of spiritual law and it cannot be reversed."

Malpractice, ignorant or malicious, cannot operate through electricity as poison, nor can it cause contraction of nerves and muscles. The denial of electricity as presence or power, destroys the root of evil, and we are then free to manifest Truth and its infinite forms of good.

In Science and Health we read, "The material so-called gases and forces are counterfeits of the spiritual forces of divine Mind, whose potency is Truth, whose attraction is Love, whose adhesion and cohesion are Life, perpetuating the eternal facts of being. Electricity is the sharp surplus of materiality which counterfeits the true sense of spirituality or truth -- the great difference being that electricity is not intelligent, while spiritual truth is Mind." From Mrs. Eddy's various references to the destructive capacities of electricity, it is quite evident that she knew the import of Jesus' teaching in this regard when he said, "I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven." To successfully meet its claim to power, it is of vital importance to comprehend the modus operandi and the so-called natural laws of this force.

In the textbook, under the Marginal Heading, "Dangerous Resemblances," Mrs. Eddy writes, "In reality the more closely error simulates Truth, and so-called matter resembles its essence, mortal mind, the more impotent error becomes as a belief. According to human belief, the lightning is fierce and the electric current swift, yet in Christian Science the flight of the one and the blow of the other will become harmless."

Friction the Cause of Electricity

Electricity is generated by friction creating electrical waves or currents, and it takes a negative and a positive pole to complete a circuit. Mrs. Eddy tells us in Science and Health, "The body is not scientifically controlled by a negative mind." Let us turn our thought to the words negative and positive. We find that there is not a thing to be desired in being negative. Webster tells us that to be negative is to be neutral, not positive — also, that a negative condition is a reverse condition. And under the word negative in Webster we find this: "Acid-forming, acidity." Webster also tells us a very interesting thing, also under the word negative: "There is another way to deny Christ, which is negative, when we do not acknowledge or confess him.

Certainly God is not negative, and we must know that man, the reflection of God, is not negative. Mrs. Eddy writes in the textbook, "Spirit is positive." Webster says to be positive is to be sure, actual, having energy, character, opposed to being negative. Of course, to be positive does not mean to be opinionated, willful, or dictatorial. We must be positive in Truth, then we will be controlled by "the calm, strong currents of true spirituality."

To be positive is to be spiritually minded. It is said that pure gold cannot be magnetized, and pure water cannot be electrified. In the physical realm, any object that has a coating of oil on it is immune to electricity. So any individual who expresses the spiritual qualities of oil is protected from illusive consciousness. Wrapped in your coat of oil — "consecration; charity; gentleness; prayer; heavenly inspiration" — no phase of mental malpractice can penetrate consciousness and produce electrical poison.

Thunder and lightning are associated with electrical storms. In the Bible there are a number of instances when thunder seemed to accompany the voice of God. Laura Sargent once told her class that when Mrs. Eddy was working out something that

she knew was revelation, it would thunder, which she knew to be a sign that something worthwhile was unfolding, because mortal mind was disturbed and was expressing itself in thunder.

After a battle, there is a thunder storm. Electricity is composed of zinc and copper poison. Realize that there is no vital force but God. Only the gentle rain can come. without cyclones. There is no evil. God is All. There is nothing that can weigh against God.

Matter is Negative Electricity

Physicists have generally adopted the theory which explains away matter, declaring it to be a condition of electro-magnetism. We can rightly consider all matter is primarily negative electricity.

This very condition of nothingness or negativeness, when understood, constitutes its mindlessness. Electricity cannot exist or show itself without magnetism. Electricity is magnetism, and magnetism is the so-called life of matter. Magnetism is the mindless counterfeit of Life. Magnetism is to matter what God is to man.

How do we nullify the so-called power of electricity and make Satan powerless? The way to handle electricity is not to let it handle you — be a non-conductor. Electricity is material mindlessness and needs a material medium, a conductor, to assist in its successful operation. De-materialize yourself and become a non-conductor. Friction creates electricity. To avoid friction, avoid temper, irritation, resentment, troubled thought, worry. These are mental elements based on a belief of matter and animal magnetism, which produces electricity and its disastrous results. Without friction and without a conductor, what can electricity do? Satan's lightning falls from heaven, falls into native nothingness.

Evil Thoughts Generate Electricity

The three kingdoms of the world are animal, vegetable, and mineral kingdoms, the realm of matter and the domain of the blind so-called forces of electro-magnetism. When matter is reduced to its final statement and considered from the standpoint of a mindless negative non-entity (mindlessness negatively constituted), it loses its claim to power and permanence before the intelligence which understands it for what it is.

The mystery which was formerly the veil of obscurity for the seeming life in and of matter, has been removed, dispelled by the light of wisdom, purity, and spiritual understanding -- by that mind which was also in Christ Jesus.

Electro-magnetism is different from animal magnetism in that the latter is sensual while the former is not. Yet to the trained metaphysician, animal magnetism and its effects are no more dangerous or mysterious when he is dealing with them in the mental dimension, than electricity it is to the trained electrician who deals with the same blind force in the mineral kingdom.

Animal magnetism declares that all action, or thought process, on the human plane depends upon the brain and nerves, and the currents of electro-magnetic motion. The beliefs, laws, and emotions of animal magnetism are objectified as electro-magnetism. It also operates through telepathy and thought transference.

An evil mind is all the Satan there is, and this is the fallen angel in the form of abused mental capacity. Such a mind, learning its control over other minds, will take the reins into its own hands and mentally malpractice on the unsuspecting mind, because the evil influence of such malicious mental work is not understood by the victim, and his mental door is not closed against the harmful mental suggestions.

All there is to physical ills is the consenting on our part to be mesmerized by these conflicting mortal opinions and so-called destructive electricity, until our disturbed thinking claims to objectify itself as some discordant phenomenon. Our protection from this influence lies in taking the offensive against the suggestion.

Now that Divine Science is taking away the world's belief in matter, its next great demonstration is to take away the world's belief in evil; and because Divine Science is doing this, the claims of evil are extremely aggressive today. It is the unfoldment of the Truth in the world that is stirring up this resistance.

How shall we meet the demands this age is making upon us? By denying the claims of evil mind-power, with its electrifying effects, and discerning the spiritual counterfact, the irresistible Christ-power, the infinite Mind-force operating as all power and presence, omnipotent Love constituting all consciousness and determining its own outward harmonious phenomena.

If we are discerning daily the powerlessness of evil mind-power to determine any outward phenomena, present and future chemicalization will be less severe, and it will shorten the days of error. The uncovering and upheaval of evil thought in the world is evidence of what Divine Science is doing to bring these claims to the surface; then do we need to stand aghast and wonder what is going to appear next? The unfoldment of Truth and Love, which has brought these evil suggestions to the surface, will melt them away if you and I are faithful to our unfoldment, and deny these aggressive suggestions until their powerlessness is recognized.

Since electricity operates in the realm of mortal mind thinking, its effects are material and not spiritual. No spiritual revelations come to man through the channels of electricity; electricity does not form a link between matter and Mind, for God is Mind; therefore, it is no part of divine Mind; and like all mortal concepts, it will be educated out of itself into its native nothingness, and the divine Mind will be seen as the only power, presence, and good.

Now, have you beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven? Are you now master of the situation? Are you not afraid of this blind so-called force which has claimed to exist around us ever since mortal mind made man out of the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the counterfeit of Life?