

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF
Frederick L. Rawson,
M.I.E.E., A.M.I.C.E.

AUTHOR OF "LIFE UNDERSTOOD."

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"**N**O thaumaturgist in any age, no magician, no saint of the Church, has ever been credited with achieving such marvellous results as those which Mr. Rawson declares have followed the faithful application of the principles set forth in 'Science and Health.'" So wrote Mr. W. T. Stead in the *Review of Reviews*, of the present occupant of our Portrait Gallery. We ourselves have heard for years of Mr. Rawson, then we met him, have listened to his narration of wonderful instantaneous cures, by divine healing, of the most virulent diseases and troubles that afflict mankind, and admit that we have been so deeply impressed by his sincerity and his enthusiasm, and by the record of his whole-hearted devotion to the service of his fellow-men, that we have set ourselves to investigate the truth of some of his most remarkable cures. If our quest proves satisfactory, as we have no reason to doubt it will, we shall

proceed to discover what great and potent principle underlies his wonderful demonstrations of curative power.

Meantime, we shall attempt to tell what manner of man he is. He is a scion of a well-known and distinguished family, which has put science and religion in the forefront of their activities. His father was Sir Rawson W. Rawson, C.B., K.C.M.G., author of "The Gospel Narrative, or the Life of Jesus Christ, being an Epitome and Harmony of the Gospels." He was President of the Statistical Society, Vice-President of the Royal Geographical Society, and President of the Imperial Federation League. His grandfather was Sir William Rawson, who won his knighthood in the medical profession, and received the thanks of Parliament and a vote of £10,000 in acknowledgment of his services on the battlefield. His brother is Colonel Rawson, C.B., R.E., Vice-President of the Royal Meteorological Society, who held the distinguished technical position of Secretary to the Royal Engineer Committee. His recent experiments upon plants, which have disclosed the unsuspected differentiating effect of rays of sunlight from hour to hour, are revolutionising present botanical views, and promise to supply the long-sought clue to mutation and to enable the problem of the Origin of Species to be attacked from a new standpoint. His kinsman, Admiral Sir Harry Rawson, G.C.B., was chief technical expert to the Admiralty at Portsmouth, and later Governor of New South Wales. Mr. Rawson himself has earned distinction in many fields. He is a tall, square-shouldered figure, with indomitable perseverance written large on his whole make-up. In business he has been marvellously versatile and successful, but his temperament is essentially religious and

humane. His boundless, vital energy is patent to everyone, but at the same time his eyes strike one as those of a mystic whose thoughts are ever turned, as he himself would express it "towards God and Heaven." All sorts and conditions of sufferers and seekers after truth resort to his consulting-rooms at 90, Regent Street, W., and with wonderful patience and kindness he instructs them in the principles of that divine healing to which he now devotes his life.

Turning to his business record, we find that until he retired he was described in Whitaker's "Who's Who in Business" as "the principal authority in the City of London on new inventions and discoveries." He was trained at Westminster School, where he specialised in mathematics, also in natural science and drawing, subjects in which he was never beaten. After leaving school he was trained as an engineer under Baron Erlanger and in Lord Brassey's works at Birkenhead. Mr. Rawson appears to have been gifted with some special faculty of attacking and solving the most abstruse problems that present themselves to the human mind. He was constantly consulted not only on engineering difficulties, but on every conceivable subject which baffles thought. Embarrassing problems of medicine, chemistry, electricity, and physiology were put before him and straightened out. Eugen Sandow consulted him on the effect of the human mind on muscles, Major Woods sought his advice on methods of training and breaking horses, the *Daily Mail* retained him to decide on Mr. Hart's claims that he could move matter with his mind, and the *Daily Express* engaged him to investigate the results of mental healing with special reference to Christian Science. He developed electrical instruments for

the alleviation of human suffering, and had the honour of showing one of these to the late King Edward VII. This was an instrument to light up small internal cavities in the human body for use during operations. It was the means of saving lives in Liverpool, St. George's Hospital, and elsewhere. He was retained on a method of producing a pure, non-poisonous peroxide of hydrogen, which his brother succeeded in making, and which was found efficacious in the treatment of cancer and lupus. He developed a wonderfully interesting invention for stopping pain by passing an intermittent high tension electrical current through the nerves. He was appointed technical expert to the Institute of Medical Electricity, where he was associated with Dr. Morrel Mackenzie, Sir John Lubbock, and other famous men. He made the working drawings for the first gas-driven motor car. He was a pioneer in the electrical industry, and was engineer to the first electric lighting company formed. He was the first to use electricity in many of its purposes, such as the lighting of battle-fields at night, lawn-tennis courts, etc. He put down the first electric railway in England—at the Newcastle Exhibition—and built the first armour train—at the Royal Agricultural Hall. He was the technical expert on the first Telephone Committee appointed in England. He was consulting engineer for the first airship built for the British War Office, and steered it on its first trial. He also helped to build the first hydroplane ever experimented with, which he also steered. He acted as consulting engineer for *Aeronautics*, the leading technical paper on that subject. Drury Lane Theatre was indebted to him for the first electric storage batteries used commercially to light up

moving human beings. He advised in the construction of electric and steam launches which established speed records. He was a motor 'bus pioneer, and had to do with placing the first motor 'bus—an electric one—on the streets of London. He was the head of a business which had five sets of works, with offices all over the world, making every kind of electrical and engineering plant, including such out of the way things as the largest flanging press and largest oil tanks ever then built. He advised in the development of the well-known Welsbach burner, the first incandescent gas burner put on the market, and after he reorganised that company the 2s. shares became worth over £50 each. He organised for a client a company which was subscribed for fifty-three times over—a record. His advice was sought on systems for breaking the bank at Monte Carlo, and for the organising of business and trade protection societies. On the medical side he was an indefatigable worker, and made innumerable reports on all kinds of difficult subjects. We could continue the list of his astounding achievements, but these few will suffice to show that Mr. Rawson is not an impractical dreamer, nor a man likely to be deceived by false claims put forward by Christian Science or any other cult. Consequently, when he has retired from business as a comparatively young man, to devote himself entirely to philanthropic work and divine healing, we may feel sure he has something to say on the subject worthy of respectful consideration.

It is interesting to know that Mr. Rawson never allowed himself to be wholly immersed in business, notwithstanding the great demands upon him, for he has ever been an enthusiastic golfer, cricketer, football and lacrosse player, swimmer, skater, etc.,

the strenuousness of these exercises being relieved only by his musical accomplishments, for as first violinist, he was leader of the Epsom orchestra for thirteen years. When fifty years of age, Mr. Rawson made more runs at cricket for Epsom than any other player. In the previous year he took more wickets than any other bowler, and won a bat given for the three highest scores. Two years ago he scored the highest number of runs of the year, 135, in a match against Guildford, the local newspaper stating "with no resemblance of a mistake, his innings being characterised by free hitting all round the wicket." His prowess as a wicket-keeper has not deserted him, and in one match during a recent Epsom cricket week, when he had to put on the gloves, the same paper stated that "he only allowed the ball to pass him twice, though the batsmen made over 300 runs." At lawn tennis he won what was then known as the Championship of London. In his younger days he played Association football for seven years in the Cup Team of the Clapham Rovers, one of the three leading London clubs, and when only seventeen, particulars were given of him in the Football Annual when describing the fifty leading Association players in England. At this age also he was chosen to play Rugby for Cheshire. With his brother he started the West London Lacrosse Club, which won the Junior and Senior South of England Flag, with himself and his brother in the teams. At golf he made many records, and in an exhibition match beat the professionals of Wimbledon Common and Mitcham by five and nine up, cutting the amateur record by five strokes. He was captain of one of the leading London swimming clubs, and was chosen to play water-polo for Middlesex, at which game he performed a record in the cup ties. He

was a member of the London Skating Club when to pass its test was the mark of an accomplished skater, and his photograph, doing a "continuous spread-eagle" backwards, was long visible at the club. On roller skates he finished close to the winner in the most important North of England meeting. He played hockey on the ice for Cheshire against Lancashire. At the game of Vigoro he captained Surrey in all their county matches at the Oval, and played for the Gentlemen against the Players at Lords. For rifle shooting he won a gold medal given by the late Colonel Cody for a contest at the Alexandra Palace under the most difficult conditions possible. When he came to fire his last shot, to win he required a bull's-eye. This is his version of how he got it: "I determined to rely solely on treatment. Putting the rifle to my shoulder, I tried to realise God as clearly as I could. Immediately I got my realisation clear I pulled the trigger, got a bull's-eye, and won the competition." He tells this story to illustrate his doctrine that all success is solely due to *right* thinking and the resultant action of the Principle of good.

We have already mentioned that the *Daily Express* retained Mr. Rawson to clear up, if possible scientifically, the claims made for mental healing and Christian Science, the intention being to expose that sect if the methods employed were found to be fraudulent. This was thirteen years ago. A few days after he was commissioned, he ruptured the sheath of one of the big muscles of his back while playing golf. It had been ruptured twice before, and he had been advised by Dr. Wharton Hood, the celebrated surgeon, to give up playing golf altogether, as if the rupture happened again, the consequences would be serious. He played again,

and was going to place himself under the doctor's care, when it was suggested to him, "Why don't you try Christian Science?" Although he then knew nothing of the subject, and was not acquainted with any Christian Scientist, he determined to test it. On the Saturday he received "present treatment"; on the Sunday he lay all day on the sofa in great pain and had "absent treatment"; on the Monday he had no treatment; on the Tuesday he again had "personal treatment" but felt no better. On the Wednesday morning he woke up so absolutely well, that he went out, played golf, and suffered no ill effects from the pastime, either then or since.

In an interview Mr. Rawson kindly gave us, he said: "The thing that struck me most of all was when the healer said, 'You need not believe a word I say; if you go on investigating in the way you intend, you will prove everything yourself.' This appealed to me. The healing did not depend on my faith at all. I had long recognised that blind faith was a broken reed on which to lean.

"What actually took place I now know to be that the healer, by turning in thought to God, got his human mind out of the way, and just as darkness disappears by pulling up a blind, so the action of God purified that portion of my mind which was receptive to harmful thoughts, and destroyed the thoughts causing the trouble. I was not conscious of any physical change taking place during the treatment, but soon I realised that both a physical and moral change had occurred.

"I saw at once that here was something which had not previously come within the range of my experience. I had suffered many years from eczema, from which my father died. On the evening of the day I found my back restored, I abstained

from applying the special eczema ointment I was using, and tried the effect of right thinking instead. Next morning all trace of the disease had vanished, and I have never since had any trouble therefrom.

“A week later I attended a Christian Science testimony meeting at Bryanston Street, and heard a man give a testimony as to how he had got rid of ‘a growth.’ I then and there ‘treated’ in the way I had been taught for ‘a growth’ I had the size of a walnut, which had been steadily increasing in size for about two years. It immediately shrivelled up to the size of a pea and became quite soft, and in two or three days it was entirely gone.

“I went steadily on with my examination for the *Daily Express* and for over three years attended Testimony Meetings every Wednesday evening and took down notes of what was said. I used afterwards to talk to those who had testified with a view to find out the exact way in which they were thinking when their cures took place, and thus gained valuable knowledge. When possible two or three months later, I would cross-examine them to see if their stories remained consistent. I soon came to the conclusion that there was not the

slightest doubt as to the fact of the physical healing and the elimination of every class of sin, disease and trouble.

“About eighteen months after I had been retained I informed the *Daily Express* that I was ready to make a report, declining however to take payment of the £100 offered for it. At the end of several hours talk, I asked the editor what he was going to do with the report. He said, ‘Mr. Rawson, I have not the slightest idea what to do. It is

much too big a thing.' He asked me to clear up the scientific reasons for the results obtained, and gave me *carte blanche* to make what use I liked of the knowledge gained, with the object of benefitting humanity. The investigation of all the scientific reasons for the results took me about two years more. Since then I have cleared up also the scientific reasons for all forms of occult phenomena. These have been embodied in my work called 'Life Understood, from a scientific and religious point of view, and the practical method of destroying sin, disease and death,' published by the Crystal Press, Ltd., of 36, Maiden Lane, W.C., of which the first edition is already almost exhausted."

The entrancing story Mr. Rawson continued to tell us of his stirring experiences in fighting evil and of how he has helped others by precept and example, so that they can heal every kind of virulent disease which comes before them, must be left over for our next issue. We commend our readers meantime to give careful attention to his speech on "Man's Powers and Work," reported in another part of the *Gazette*. It proceeds on somewhat unfamiliar lines, and requires understanding; but if his claims are verified he has assuredly got hold of a truth and a method which should be of tremendous importance to the world in freeing humanity from its ills.

J.L.