

MORE ON MALPRACTICE

If it be true that “. . . the mind of the individual only can produce a result upon his body,” even though it be also true that “the belief that produces this result may be wholly unknown to the individual, because it is lying back in the unconscious thought, a latent cause producing the effect we see.” If this be so — and Mrs. Eddy makes these statements in *Christian Healing* — how can there ever be any effect produced upon anyone’s body because of an evil thought projected maliciously or ignorantly by a second person toward the first one?

If “the mind of the individual only can produce a result upon his body,” must it not be simply his own belief, and not another’s act or thought, that does the trick? Where, then, is the wrong thinking or malpractice that produces the result but in the consciousness of the individual himself? Where then is the wrong-thinker or malpractitioner but in the individual himself? Why not, then, protect oneself solely against one’s own false belief, by ceasing to so believe through understanding the Truth? This would seem to be the logical answer to the question, for Mrs. Eddy says, “. . . the mind of the individual only [or the individual’s own false belief] can produce a result upon his body.”

It would seem to be mere evasion to say malpractice from number two can injure number one if number one does not protect himself from that malpractice; or if number one believes there is power in malpractice directed toward him from number two, and that malpractice from number two can injure number one; for were either of these statements a fact, evil under some circumstances would have power, which is absolutely contrary to the teachings of Christian Science. If it be said that this is so only in belief, then all the more reason to protect oneself from the belief.

In the first event, the result — if result there be — would be due to the unconscious belief of number one. And in the second event, the result would be due to the conscious belief of number one that there was something other than God that had presence, reality, or power; whereupon number one would get the result of his own false belief or his own malpractice; for he would be malpracticing, which is all malpractice is, for the prefix of the word *malpractice* comes from the word *mal*, meaning bad or wrong, and thus malpractice is but bad or wrong practice, which is simply the act of believing that there is something else than God or good. To practice right or good, or to choose always to serve good and not evil, one must be awake and alert to detect the various disguises under which evil suggestions present themselves for their acceptance or rejection. Thus to handle malpractice successfully, each one must practice right when tempted to practice wrong — choosing always to accept good and to reject evil.

It is corroborated in *Miscellaneous Writings* that it is the belief of the individual only that produces a result upon his body. . . . “you are the arbiter of your own fate. . . . In the words of our Master, you are ‘a liar, and the father of it.’ (the lie).” And “Each individual is responsible for himself.”