

Healing by Faith.*

It is not our purpose to deny, or even question, the verity of cures "by faith." The "mind" so acts on the body, and the brain plays so important a part in the nervous system, by which the whole organism is energized and controlled both in regard to its functions and nutrition, that it is not only quite possible, but an absolute fact, that many maladies which are not so far advanced as to be dependent upon changes in structure, or "organic diseases," may be remedied by or through the agency of the mind. We will even go so far as to affirm that a very large proportion of the ailing might be, and probably would be, sound if only they were sufficiently strongly impressed to believe themselves to be so. This influence of the mind on the body has been the stronghold of quackery from the earliest times, and "faith" is as powerful an influence for good or evil now as it has ever been. Such "miracles" as the Salvationists are working with their presage among the emotional classes, whether illiterate or well informed, have uniformly signaled the commencement of a new era in religious enthusiasm. When the first enthusiasm subsides, "miracles cease" of physico-mental necessity. The large class of so-called hysterical, cataleptic, and even epileptic affections are distinctly amenable to this influence; so are those nervous disturbances and derangements which consist wholly or chiefly in disorderly activity, as distinguished from actual disease. The mimetic maladies, of which there are always a very large number of cases, are, of course, amenable to the curative influence of faith. Outside these classes, however, stand a multitude of badly managed or misunderstood cases which only need to be placed on a new footing—it matters little what—to get well. A wondrous crowd of ignorant prejudices still hovers over many districts as to the curability or hopelessness of special diseases which are better understood and more successfully treated—on common sense principles—in the centers of knowledge.

For example, we know of localities and affections which, being associated, produce the most dire delusions as to the length of time bones usually take to unite in healthy subjects; and how coughs and other distressing maladies are, or are not, under the control of the will. In such combinations of facts and fiction, it is easy to get miracles out of such common matters as the union of the accurately applied ends of a fractured radius in three or four days! There is not a word to be said against "healing by faith." Every busy practitioner has cases under his observation that he would be heartily glad to find so powerfully affected that they could be cured even by this agency. All we are anxious to point out is that an intelligent lay press ought not to lend itself to the promulgation of nonsensical beliefs and impressions. Of course, it is true that many of the poor people who are reported to be "cured" are actually benefited, and by their faith. This is a fact, and there is no sort of reason why the benefits received should not be permanent. If the subjects of these cures are thankful to the Giver of all good, that is not a matter to make merry about. It is as it should be. We are glad of their gain, and pleased to find them moved to gratitude. Meanwhile, if these "cures" need be discussed, let the comments made be neither irreverent, offensive, nor puerile. The *modus operandi* of such recoveries is perfectly well understood, and there is nothing either specially noteworthy or wonderful about them.

New Torpedo Boats.

Yarrow & Co. are building for the Austrian Government a pair of large boats of what may be called the excessive speed class. The length is 135 feet and the beam 13 feet 9 inches. These boats are expected to run 24 knots within the hour when light, and 22 knots with gear on board ready for action. The engines are of the three-cylinder or triple-expansion type. The working pressure is to be 140 pounds, and the horse power is estimated at from 1,100 to 1,200 indicated. There will be but one boiler, of the usual torpedo boat type adopted by Messrs. Yarrow, and it will be a point of great interest to marine engineers, says *Engineering*, to see how far it is practicable to get so great a power from a single locomotive type boiler.

The dimensions of the first-class torpedo boats have been increasing of late, while the second-class, or original 60 foot boats, appear likely to become extinct, their place being taken by high speed pinnaces of somewhat larger type than those hitherto carried on war vessels. The improvements in machinery, and consequent increase in speed, enable these craft to be used for torpedo warfare, while they are to be at the same time available for ordinary ships' purposes. The first-class boats, of lengths from 100 feet to 110 feet, are undoubtedly fit to go through any reasonable weather, and such craft will always prove useful; still, by lengthening the boat from 130 to 140 feet, her powers would be greatly increased, while, generally speaking, no serious disabilities would be added. Of course, there is the question of cost, but the testimony of naval officers appears to be so completely in favor of the larger boat that the additional expense would no doubt be warranted.

* From the (London) *Lancet*.**COMBINED DETACHABLE POCKET AND CAP.**

An invention recently patented by Mr. Andrew Heller, of 2095 Madison Avenue, New York city, provides a pocket for coats which can be readily detached and used as a cap. To the inner surface of the coat is sewed a piece of fabric, C, having a slot coinciding with the pocket slot, D. The edges of the slot in the piece are sewed to the coat at the edges of the slot, and the upper edge of the piece is sewed to the coat, the lower edge forming the tongue, F. The buttons, H and G, are sewed to the piece as shown in Fig. 2, and the sides of the pocket, A, are provided, at their upper edges,

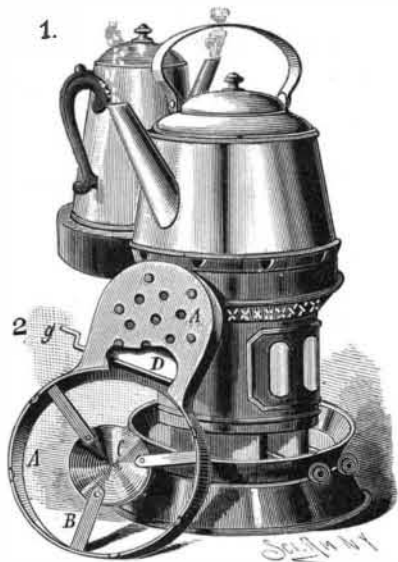
**HELLER'S COMBINED DETACHABLE POCKET AND CAP.**

with holes to receive the buttons. Cords are passed through the upper corners of the pocket, for the purpose of drawing the sides together when the pocket is held on the coat, or for holding the cap on the head.

As will be readily perceived, the pocket can be easily detached and then worn as a cap, the long side covering the back of the head. It can be combined with any coat, and would prove very handy for travelers, soldiers, and others.

HEAT DISTRIBUTER FOR OIL STOVES.

The invention shown in the accompanying engraving, recently patented by Mr. Benjamin Hunt, of Neosho Falls, Kansas, is designed to distribute the heat and flame of gasoline or oil stoves so that the heat will be applied equally over the bottom of the cooking vessel, thus avoiding danger of burning food from a concentration of heat at one spot. In the main part of the device are radial arms, B, whose inner ends support an inverted sheet metal cone, C. The extension is closed at the bottom by a plate, and at the top by a perforated plate formed with knobs upon its upper surface, for the purpose of slightly raising the vessel to permit the heat to pass out through the holes and come in contact with the bottom. The amount of heat ad-

**HUNT'S HEAT DISTRIBUTOR FOR OIL STOVES.**

mitted to the exterior can be regulated by a damper, D, pivoted in the entrance.

The device is placed upon the oil stove, so that the point of the cone will come in the center of the flame, and deflect and distribute the heat equally over the bottom of any cooking vessel which may be placed upon the upper edge of the main portion of the rim, A. The extension may be used when a slow heat is required. The utility, simplicity, and small cost of the device will recommend it to those using oil stoves.

A Dozen Hardy Shrubs.

To an inquirer in the *Rural New-Yorker* for the names of a dozen of the best ornamental flowering shrubs, Mr. C. E. Parnell, of Queens, L. I., replies as follows:

It is really a difficult affair to select a dozen only, for there are so many beautiful sorts, and all of them present so many claims to our notice, that it appears to be altogether unjust to neglect the many on account of a few. But as there are many who, like your correspondent, only desire, or have room for, a few, one cannot do less than make the attempt at a selection. First, I would choose *Weigela nana variegata*, one of the most beautiful shrubs in cultivation. It is of dwarf habit, with clearly defined variegated leaves of a bright golden yellow. The flowers, which are of a pale rose color, are produced in the greatest profusion early in June. *Weigela rosea Desboisii* is of erect, compact growth, and has deep rose-colored flowers in June. *Spiraea Thunbergii* is a beautiful low-growing shrub of rounded form, and has delicate green lanceolate foliage, and small white flowers, which are produced early in May in such profusion as almost to cover the entire plant. *Spiraea Reevesiana* is a very graceful, slightly drooping species, with white flowers; while *S. callosa alba* is a low-growing variety, producing its small, white flowers in large corymbs during June and July. *Philadelphus coronarius* is rather a long name for a very popular and well-known strong growing shrub that produces its large, pure white, sweet-scented flowers about the middle of June. *Hydrangea paniculata grandiflora* is so well known as to need no further description than to say that it is one of the best, if not the best, ornamental shrub we have in cultivation. *Buist's Variegated Althaea* is another choice variegated shrub, the leaves of which are beautifully marked with creamy white. It stands the sun well, is of free growth, and is attractive at all times. Then we must include the Golden Bell (*Forsythia viridissima*), which is well known as one of the earliest flowering shrubs, the bright yellow flowers appearing before the leaves. *Deutzia crenata fl. pl. alba* produces its double white flowers in racemes four or five inches in length late in June, and is a shrub of vigorous growth; while *D. gracilis* is one of the most graceful of shrubs. It is of dwarf, compact habit, and the pure white flowers are most freely produced. The Persian Lilac (*Syringa Persica*) is a shrub of medium size, having small leaves and purple, fragrant flowers.

All of the above are perfectly hardy, and can be cultivated by any one, even by those who possess but little skill or experience, and, if properly cared for, they will prove very satisfactory. They are not rare or expensive, and nice specimens can be obtained at a very moderate price of any of our leading nurserymen.

Ginseng.

A parliamentary paper contains the account of a journey made by the Consul-General of Great Britain in Corea. Some interesting information is given with regard to the production of the famous drug ginseng, so prized as a tonic by the Chinese. It is grown from a seed which is sown in March. The seedlings are planted out in beds raised a foot above the level of the surrounding soil, bordered with upright slates, and covered in from sun and rain by sheds of reeds, well closed in except toward the north side, where they are left to open. In the first or second year the ginseng plant is only two or three inches high, and has only two leaves. It is transplanted frequently during this period. In the fourth year the stem is about six inches high, with four horizontal leaves standing out from it at right angles, and in the fifth year a strong, healthy plant has reached maturity, though it is more usual not to take it up until it has reached the sixth season. Ordinary ginseng is prepared by simply drying the root in the sun or over a charcoal fire. To make red or clarified ginseng, the root is placed in wicker baskets, which are put in a large earthenware vessel with a closely fitting cover, and pierced at the bottom with holes. It is then placed over boiling water, and steamed for about four hours.

Ginseng was for centuries regarded as a very elixir of life all over the East; and especially in China and Japan. Its properties were supposed to be miraculous, but they were generally supposed to be confined to the Corean ginseng. But its enormous price put it out of the reach of the poorer classes. The wild ginseng of Corea has frequently fetched twenty times its weight in silver in China. The export from Corea is a strict monopoly, which affords a considerable revenue, and is said to be the king's personal perquisite. Death is the punishment for smuggling it out of the country. The total export is only about 27,000 pounds avoirdupois.

A Great Steamer.

The steamship *Etruria*, a sister ship to the *Umbria*, built by Messrs. John Elder & Co. for the Cunard Company, is now ready to leave the Clyde. Built of steel, her tonnage is 8,000 tons; she is 520 feet long, 57½ feet broad, and 41 feet deep, the engines being of 12,500 indicated horse power. The *Etruria* is soon to leave Liverpool on her maiden transatlantic trip for New York.