Senator Works Talks on Christian Science in Senate

Californian Urges the United States Not to Favor One School of Medicine, but to Promote Good of All

Washington. — Christian Science healing was discussed in the United States senate Tuesday by Senator John D. Works of California. He termed Christian Science the one perfect system of healing and characterized materia medica as experimental, unreliable and dangerous. He told of his own healing by Christian Science and presented testimonials of 56 other authenticated cases of healing, one of which was a letter from another senator who was present.

The speech, which consumed three hours of Tuesday's session, and was resumed this morning, was a criticism of the federal public health service, which service, the senator said, was dominated by the American Medical association and conducted for the promotion of the allopathic school of medicine and at the expense of all other systems of healing. Certain political doctors, he said, were trying to gain a monopoly of the healing business by legislating out of existence all other methods of healing, including Christian Science. The government should not aid the advancement of one school of medicine, he said, but should seek the good in all systems of healing.

As a specic solution of the difficulty the senator proposed a complete reorganization of the public health service, placing at its head not a doctor but a man of broad, humanitarian ideals who could look beyond the horizon of his particular branch of learning.

One Perfect Healer.

"History has disclosed but one perfect Healer of both sin and disease," he said. "But I think I shall show before I have concluded that there is a perfect Principle and system of healing which, if rightly and understandingly applied, will prevent or cure any and every disease of whatever kind or nature. The failure to heal any disease in a given case is not the fault of the healing principle, but results from the erroneous attempted application of it.

"The world has been taught for centuries to believe that religion pertains only to the spiritual; that man is a material being and can be healed when he is sick only by material means; and that the only resort in case of disease is the doctor and his drugs. Consequently their faith in the doctor has become a fixed fact. The great masses of the people believe that God, in His wisdom, sends sickness upon His children to punish and chasten them. But strange as it may seem, they at once question the divine decree and resort to the doctor for relief from its effects. Thus they array the doctor against God in the hope that he may frustrate the divine purpose.

"Whenever we look into the work of the medical practitioner we find incompetency, negligence, uncertainty, confusion and differing views among themselves. Most of them are honest and sincere. Many of them are competent and skilful. Many of them are doing their best to elevate their profession and make it an instrument for good. But the great fundamental trouble is that their principle of healing is wrong. Their remedies are not only inadequate and ineffectual; they are dangerous to life and health.

A Higher Law of Life.

"There is a higher law of life and health than this, and they, in common with all mankind, must find it. There is a principle of health and harmony that they have not found, nor have their unfortunate patients who suffer under a system of healing that ignores this principle and leans on material means. It is a broken reed. And yet in an enlightened and Christian country this material and deadly system is being blindly imposed upon a protesting and suffering people by unjust laws and by placing over them with autocratic powers the men who have mistakenly devised and are practising this dangerous system. Millions of people are crying out against these unjust laws but congress heeds them not.

"Mr. President, this is a matter about which there should be no coercion. It is as sacred as religion. And any law or regulation that forces action contrary to the honest convictions of a citizen is a violation of his most sacred rights and of the constitution of the United States. I protest earnestly against such laws. I appeal to congress to awaken and inform itself on this great question affecting life, health and liberty, and afford relief to the people who are suffering under these unjust laws.

"I am not asking for laws in favor of any class or mode of healing. I am asking only for freedom to follow their convictions of what is best for them. There should be no class legislation on the subject. I am only asking that they shall not be deprived of their rights and their liberties by adverse and restrictive laws in favor of and at the dictation of another class.

Broaden Health Service.

"I would not abolish the public health service if I could," said Senator Works. "I would make it broader, more tolerant, more humane. I would have it presided over by a man of broad, tolerant and humanitarian views, who could look beyond the dead line of the so-called regular school of medicine and seek for, find and apply for the common welfare all that is good in every school of medicine, old and new, and all other methods of healing, saving none, favoring none. I would not allow any medical or other professional practitioner to preside over the service. I would allow no preference to rule the service.

"As it is now governed it is an auxiliary of the American Medical association, and of course is biased, narrow and unjust. All government medical officers are made members of this association, and I am informed none has declined his membership. I do not question their motives or good faith, but I do seriously question their judgment and the propriety of government health officers belonging to an association operated for the benefit of its own members.

"The government should see to it that the service is removed from any such influence and made the unbiased and honest searcher for the best that can be found as a means of preventing disease and preserving the public health. I appeal to congress for a fair and patriotic consideration of this great question that involves the health and happiness, the lives of our people."

Costs $20,000,000 a Year.

Senator Works quoted figures to show that the annual expenditures for the health service in its various branches exceed $20,000,000. There is, he said, at the head of the public health service proper a surgeon general; another surgeon general of the army and one of the navy, and under them thousands of surgeons, assistant surgeons and subordinates. He presented a table of expenditures for 1912 showing a total of $19,800,086.23, more than half of which was paid for compensation of 15,632 employes, all of whom were of one school of medicine, the allopathic. The number, he said, has been largely increased since then.

Almost unlimited powers, he said, have been delegated to the surgeon general and his subordinates, usurping the constitutional rights of individuals. In apprehension of an epidemic or contagion, he said, the surgeon general assumes despotic power, his authority not being exceeded even by the general of the army in time of martial law.

"He represents, for the time being," said the senator, "the enormous police power of the government. He may restrain and imprison a citizen and prescribe the habits of the people. Even in ordinary times his power is little less despotic. When we travel he may determine what we shall drink and how we shall drink it. The useless and unnecessary precautions taken to keep us in good health are often burdensome and humiliating in the extreme.

"Unfortunately most people are willing slaves to the doctor whether he appears in uniform or in a private capacity. The extent to which intelligent people submit to the ministrations of the physician or surgeon is one of the wonders of the age."

Incompetency Charged.

The senator charged that the incompetency and recklessness of some physicians and surgeons has caused more fatalities, made more invalids, and done more to develop the liquor and drug habits than any other cause.

"And, sir," he said, "it is in the hands of a profession composed to a large extent of such as these that the health and happiness of a suffering people now mainly rest, and that in large measure by force of laws enacted by congress and the state legislatures.

"Our public health service has been given over without question to just one school of medical men to the exclusion of all other modes of healing. No different method is even considered. No citizen is allowed to exercise his individual conscience in time of existing or threatened contagion, is allowed to exercise his individual belief as to the manner of preserving or restoring his health. He must submit to the rules of the health department, eat and drink what it dictates, swallow the vile drugs it prescribes, and live where and as it commands.

"The service maintains a press bureau and sends broadcast over the country, at public expense, literature, mostly doctors' opinions about causes of disease, that breeds fear which in turn produces and fosters disease and cures none who are unwise enough to read it, which, fortunately, very few people do."

Broader Powers Sought.

The senator called attention to the various bills, passed and pending, to enlarge the scope of the health service and broaden its powers, all of which are passed, he said, because of a "childlike confidence in the infallibility of doctors."

"Mr. president," he continued, "the government should no longer cling to one mode of healing and lend its powerful aid to the building up of one school of medicine. The administration of the public health service is a sacred duty. We have constituted ourselves guardians of the public health. It is a guardianship we cannot delegate to any school of medicine.

"This great nation should be broad enough to seek the most effective means of preserving the public health and have the courage to apply it, but always leaving every citizen free to resort to such means as he desires. He has as much right to choose his physical remedy as he has to choose his church. So, if he believes in Christian Science as a means of preventing and healing disease, his right to resort to that remedy is just as sacred as is the right of other men to resort to the doctor. The government may properly investigate, educate and advise, but it has no right to coerce any citizen to resort to any remedy against his will.

Many Faithful Doctors.

"I recognize the fact and acknowledge it with pleasure, that there are many high-minded and conscientious men engaged in the medical profession who are doing much to alleviate human suffering. They are loyally and faithfully devoting their lives to this great purpose. To such as these I accord great honor. But the difference between us is that I have been convinced that drugs and other material alleged remedies do not heal and that there is a remedy that if rightly applied, will heal all our diseases. I have been reluctant to enter upon this discussion because it leads to a discussion of religion, because of the belief on my part and of thousands of others, that healing is as much a religious right as redemption from sin, and that the same principle that regenerates the sinner, applied in precisely the same way, heals the sick. So I come in opposition to two powerful forces—contrary religious convictions as sincere as my own, and the medical profession. The one holds that all who practice any other mode of healing except his own, are takers and quacks—a menace to health and life—and should be suppressed by law. The other class denounce as unChristian and unbelievers those who believe that the only true source of healing is divine.

"I have no animosities against either the doctor or the preacher. So long as people believe as the majority of them do, they are both necessary. My purpose is to consider principles and not men, and to show, if I can, that the prevailing beliefs about God and his relation to sickness, disease and suffering here on earth are mistaken, and that it is the duty of the government to abandon its position of accepting one school of doctors as the only reliable school, and to investigate all sources of healing, with the common good always in view."

The senator excluded sanitation work from his criticisms and commended the public health service efforts in this direction. He said he did not question its efficiency as a means of preventing disease.

Medical Men Disagree.

A considerable portion of Senator Works' speech was devoted to showing that materia medica is experimental, unreliable and dangerous; that the consequences of wrong diagnosis are much more serious than the public knows; that doctors disagree fundamentally among themselves; and that the public are innocent victims of medical ignorance and incompetence.

He quoted scores of medical men, recognized as authorities, to show their wide variance of opinion and their admissions of the marked limitations and inefficiency of medicine and surgery in the treatment of disease.

"There are many well-known diseases," he said, "that, from the standpoint of the medical doctor, are incurable. And these are the diseases that need to be cured. The others will get well of themselves. The only need of the doctor is to allay the fear that engenders disease and often prevents recovery. Bread pills, flavored with faith of the patient are just as effective and less dangerous than all the drugs he may administer.

Diagnosis of Cases.

"Perhaps the worst feature of the doctors' mistakes is their wrong diagnosis of cases. The inability to properly diagnose a case is not necessarily an evidence of either incompetency or negligence. There are certain diseases that can be discerned by the layman, the symptoms are so evident. There are others that deceive the most skilful surgeon or physician.

"But many of them are culpable, and their diagnoses are the result of either incompetence or carelessness. But whatever the cause, they show the uncertainty of medical practice. They not only fail to heal but they kill untold numbers, how many no one can tell." The senator quoted Dr. Richard C. Cabot of Harvard University as saying that diagnoses are correct in only 50 per cent of his cases. If this is true of an eminent physician like Dr. Cabot, it was pointed out, how much worse would it be among the thousands of physicians of mediocre ability?

Figures were quoted to show that in Bellevue hospital autopsies showed that 47.7 per cent of the diagnoses were erroneous and that in the Massachusetts hospitals more than 50 per cent were wrong.

"As the doctors believe," he said, "that each disease is caused by a different germ and can be healed only by a microbe, the disastrous consequences of missing the disease and its germ in half the cases and prescribing the wrong microbe in the form of a serum or some other preparation may as well be imagined."

It was also pointed out that many of these cases were of simple diagnosis, making the percentage of error much higher when confined to the doubtful cases.

Question of Surgery.

"Surgery is more scientific than medicine," said the senator. "Some surgeons have become wonderfully skillful. They apparently vie with each other to show how far the body can be carved and mutilated and the patient still live. The desire to use the knife has become a mania with many surgeons. No one who has noticed the extent to which surgery is resorted to in these modern times can fail to know that thousands of lives are needlessly sacrificed and thousands of persons made invalids by this means. This occurs sometimes from the eagerness to operate, more frequently from ignorane and incompetency, but more commonly still from wrong diagnosis."

The senator cited an instance of a boy in Los Angeles who was about to be operated upon for spinal meningitis, to become a permanent cripple as a result. His mother decided to delay, though the surgeons protested, and it was discovered by other surgeons that the boy had no symptoms of the disease. A simple remedy was given and the next day the boy was playing in the yard.

"Surgeons and physicians deplore this more even than the laymen," he said. "They realize it more and probably sympathize with it less than we do, because they can comprehend its fearful consequences."

Methods in Hospitals.

He quoted Dr. John B. Murphy's address before the American Medical Association criticizing the practicing of unskilled surgeons in the hospitals, saying that hospitals suppress the number of fatalities and that other things go on that would not bear the light of day.

Dr. John M. Mackenzie of Johns Hopkins University was quoted at length by the senator, condemning the modern craze for removing children's tonsils by surgery, indiscriminately and uselessly. Dr. Cabot was again referred to as saying that an appalling number of operations for appendicitis and enlarged tonsils, "two fashionable diseases," were wholly unnecessary. Seventeen per cent of the appendices removed in a Boston hospital, he said, were shown by autopsies to be absolutely normal.

A long list of newspaper clippings was presented by the senator telling of fatalities resulting from operations, many of them needless.

Splitting Surgical Fees.

The custom of splitting surgical fees between the physician who advises an operation and the surgeon who performs it, the senator condemned, and cited the condemnations of the practice, by a number of the profession. The prospect of a share in the large fee, gauged according to the size of the patient's purse, he showed, often resulted in operations that might otherwise be avoided.

"The only protection for an abused public," he quoted one doctor as saying, "is legislation which will make surgeons and physicians legally as well as morally responsible for errors in diagnosis, as well as in deliberate cases where the knife is resorted to for big fees."

Dr. George R. Cruickshank of Windsor, Ont., Canada, was quoted as saying that many operations are made solely for the fee involved, and that 75 per cent of the operations for appendicitis are unnecessary. "The appendix is in the body for a purpose, and is not a useless appendage," said the doctor. "Tonsils are necessary in the throat otherwise they would not be there. But happily customs are changing. Ten years from now the operators of today will be looked upon as barbarians."

Serums Are Protested.

A protest against the compulsory use of serums and vaccination was made by Senator Works.

"No one knows," he said, "whether they have ever healed a single disease or prevented it. But it is known beyond the possibility of a doubt that thousands of people, many of them helpless and innocent children, have been killed and thousands of others innoculated with the loathsome diseases by their use. All kinds of excuses are made for the consequences of a doctor's fatal blunder. Serums are forced on whole armies and navies and on school children, with fearful results. We go on experimenting and risking our lives and health and dictation of the doctors in obedience to cruel laws upon mere theories of the doctors. Every soldier and sailor is required to submit to this inoculation."

Senator Works submitted with his remarks the correspondence between himself and the secretary of the navy in the case of Joseph Kapsa, a gunners mate in the navy who, being a Christian Scientist, refused to obey the order to be vaccinated. His request for exemption because of his beliefs was refused and he was imprisoned. In this case Senator Works protested to the secretary of the navy against the unjust treatment, but he advised Mate Kapsa to submit to vaccination as his religion could not exempt him from obeying orders. Acting on Senator Works' advice Kapsa submitted to the serum treatment and was restored to duty.

Antitoxin Called a Failure.

The senator also called attention to what he termed brutal treatment of flood victims along the Ohio and Mississippi river, when the authorities compelled refugees to be vaccinated before they would give them help. "No vaccination, no rations," was the wording of placards on relief boats, he said.

A number of cases of fatalities and other serious consequences following vaccination of normal persons were cited by the senator. He pointed out that many doctors are revolting against the too-free use of serums; that the consumption serum tuberculin has been branded a failure by many authorities, while being rigidly required by others in the country. He quoted authorities to show that serums have not decreased mortality nor disease.

Diphtheria antitoxin is not a success, he gave evidence to show, and quoted a medical publication to the effect that it is purely a commercial enterprise promoted for the profit of the manufacturers, the National Drug company.

The radium theory for treatment of tuberculosis was attacked by Senator Works. He said the passage of the pending radium bill would be an act of cruelty for it would be taken by those afflicted as a government indorsement of that remedy, bringing additional suffering and disappointment. He said he was opposed to the bill, which proposes to retain to the government lands supposed to retain radium, not because of the restriction of the sale of the lands, but because the bill has become identified with the alleged humanitarian purpose of saving the radium for hospital uses, which use, he said, has practically been proven a fallacy.

Cause of Drug Habits.

The senator gave some attention to the practice among physicians of administering to patients habit-forming drugs, claiming that doctors cause more drug users than are produced in any other way.

"While they are making drunkards and drug users," he said, "Christian Scientists are healing them. And why, in the name of sense and justice, should congress or any other legislative body, enact laws making it a criminal offense for a Christian Scientist to save the unfortunates whom the 'regular' doctors have started on the downward road to ruin?"

The activities of certain political doctors to secure for the allopathic school of medicine a monopoly of the healing practice was dwelt upon at length by Senator Works. He emphasized the fact that these efforts were confined to a certain class of doctors, not the best, and that they were not representative of the great body of conscientious, sincere physicians and surgeons throughout the country.

Political Efforts of Doctors.

"On a previous occasion," he said, "I called attention to the extent to which doctors are going to secure monopolistic control of all medical and healing activities. Their efforts have increased of late rather than diminished. They are not content to follow their profession, to which no one would object. Most people still desire the services of a medical practitioner, though the number is steadily growing less as people learn how little help they can get from that source.

"Efforts of the American Medical association to educate their members and render their work more intelligent and effective are to be highly commended.

"It is the constant and often unwarranted efforts made by some, not all, of the members of that association who control its policies and methods, to secure legislation beneficial to themselves at the expense of others, in violation of the constitutional rights of other people, that has aroused opposition to their methods. They have injured the reputation of the whole medical profession of their school, and the association has been falling off in its membership.

Owen Bill Opposed.

"Much of the opposition has been aroused by the proposal in the Owen bill to establish a department of health with its head a member of the president's cabinet. But this is only a part of a general scheme of the American Medical association to entrench its school of medicine in power in both state and national affairs. It has worked through various channels to manufacture sentiment in favor of its legislation. School teachers and women's clubs have been victims of its efforts in this direction. In some instances they have had the good sense to refuse to be made parties to the scheme, but a good many others, including the national bureau of education have succumbed to its influence and become advocates of the unjust and undesirable legislation."

The senator told of the unsuccessful struggle to get the indorsement of the Chicago Woman's club for this purpose.

Control of Schools Sought.

"Mr. President," he continued, "the efforts to control extend to the schools as well as the homes. Sex hygiene, compulsory physical examination of school children, vaccination, the use of various serums, eugenic marriages, and many other fads intended to increase the power and emoluments of the doctors, are being forced upon unwilling victims by unjust laws and regulations of the public health service and state and county boards of health. It is an intolerable condition that is meeting with determined opposition on the part of people who believe in personal liberty.

"The doctors have sought laws and regulations that would place the school and home, as well as private practice, completely under their control. Their object is not to serve the public good, but to preserve their hold on the people and maintain their profits. They have seen other means of healing extending to a degree that is destined to ruin their practice and destroy the influence of the 'regular' doctors.

"Legislative bodies have been subservient to their schemes altogether too often. The national government, with all its power and influence, is supporting their efforts and supplying over $20,000,000 a year to these same 'regular doctors' to spend as they see fit. In some of the states the practice of other methods of healing is made a criminal offense through the machinations of these same doctors. In others it is made a criminal offense for a Christian Scientist to charge a fee for healing disease in his way.

Aim Of Christian Science.

"Of course the doctors, who alone have secured these laws, care nothing about whether these practitioners charge or not. The sole object of such laws is to prevent them from practicing at all. The two great states of New York and Ohio, where hundreds of healings by this means—many of them disease pronounced incurable by doctors—have been effected, are today disgraced by laws of this kind. Just lately in New York a Christian Science practitioner has been convicted of accepting fees and sentenced to be punished as a criminal Such laws are so unjust that juries have almost universally refused to convict for violation of them. This was so subversive of liberty and justice that the legislature passed a law repealing it, but at the instance of the doctors the governor vetoed the bill."

The senator read some letters and other data showing the methods employed by the doctors to wield influence as a body when seeking such legislation. He showed how doctors bind themselves together to protect each other in case of suits brought for malpractice, and for other defense.

Asks Lobby Inquiry.

He showed how the doctors had elected legislatures to represent them, paying them for their services as legislators and saving their practice for them. He advised the senate committee on "insidious lobbying" to investigate the lobby maintained by the doctors.

As an example of the boldness and comprehensiveness of their purposes he detailed the plan which the doctors want to put into operation in Indiana making every licensed physician in the state an officer of the state board of health with authority to enforce the board's orders. The plan included a system to "watch every child from its birth to its death," which the senator said was a "pretty big contract even for the medical profession."

He discussed the North Carolina law by which, he said, the doctors had become well intrenched. The laws, there, he said, give the board of health power to dictate what text books shall be used in the schools, one provision being that no physiology text book shall be used which did not give at least one eighth of its space to discussion of communicable diseases.

"By this law," he said, "children of parents who abhor such teachings must be submitted to its influences or be denied the benefits of the schools. Could there be any worse tyranny to a civilized country?"

Senator Works called on the military affairs committee to investigate conditions in the medical reserve corps of the army, an honorary organization which he said was established at the instance of the doctors, as exposed by Dr. C. Frank Lydston of Chicago. The purpose of this

(Continued on Page Seven.)

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