

Metaphysics - True and False

A paper prepared and given by Dora Elther Foxon for the Woman's Educational Club of Denver, Colorado, - of which she was president - and by request repeated several times before other clubs and public meetings.

Thinking is a function of the brain, acted upon and in concert with the five personal senses.

Thinking is shared by man with the animals, to what extent we are as yet unable to say, not having mastered their language sufficiently to understand or express it, - in which particular we have nothing to boast of - for many of the animal family have acquired in one way or another sufficient knowledge of our language to enable them to obey our commands, know when they are praised or censured and possibly much more than this although they are unable to inform us of it in language, on account of a want of adaptation of their vocal organs to our speech or our auricular organs to the

There is no good reason why we should say that dumb animals, it may be deaf human, they certainly make themselves understood to each other, and there are many instances on record which give evidence of the thinking power of animals, even of sound reasoning and logical conclusions reached by them.

It is a common fallacy to believe that we must

think that we may thereby understand, as a matter of fact - thinking is not a necessity to understanding, nor is it an evidence of intelligence. It is simply a natural function of the brain going on at all times whether we are asleep or awake, sometimes connected, reasonable logical, at other times disconnected, illogical morbid. - I do not here refer to "unconscious cerebration" but to that voluntary action of the brain brought about by the human will, whereby the ^{person} thinks upon good or evil things according as they desire, we may be conscious of either condition and able to place upon it its true value, we may even be conscious of unconsciousness - as when we realize our ignorance upon any subject - or we may to a degree reverse the matter being conscious of the thought; but ignorant of its value thus calling the illogical, logical, the unreasonable, reasonable, evil, good. We sometimes think much which bears no fruit in understanding, while on the other hand it often occurs that we thoroughly understand that about which we have thought very little. The unbalanced brain - which we call insane - is not the dull or inactive one, neither is it the unconscious one, it thinks as much if not more than the better balanced, and always thinks to a purpose real and valid to itself.

Can we say much more for our own brain work? yet you would not attempt to tell me that the ravings of a maniac were evidences of intelligence, I imagine there are many surprises in store for humanity somewhere in

the future when that wonderfully delicate instrument
the mental phonograph shall be invented which shall
record and store away for reference and study, the
vibrations of Thought, then we shall learn to "Cure
not the King, no not in Thy Thought, for a bird of the
air shall carry thy voice, and that which hath wings shall
tell the matter". In that day we shall be better peop-
l than we are now, because we would be ashamed to know
ourselves - and less for any other know us - If we were not

A man's thinking may be disordered, because of some
abnormal condition of the brain stomach liver or
kidneys, - or any other portion of the body - because
thinking may be just as much a material or mate-
rial function as the brain through which it is evolved is
material or mortal, but intelligence is never
disordered, it can not be, for it is the "image and
likeness of God" - Infinite mind. Thinking brings
forth evil as often as good, intelligence bears only
good fruit, thinking leaves its mark upon the face
and form more often in deformity than in beauty.

Intelligence sweeps the cobwebs from the windows of the
mind that soul may shine through, - makes the character
God-like. We are told by one eminent writer upon
metaphysics - Mary Baker Eddy in "Science and Health", that
"All propositions which start with the body start wrongly".

and this is just the trouble with a large portion of the
so-called metaphysical studies of today. And right here I want

to call attention to a serious lack of logic connected with most of these studies. In the every day practical affairs of life we are accustomed to believe in that which investigation has shown us, has good ground upon which to base belief, but when it comes to the study of metaphysics many do exactly the opposite, having begun the study - in most of its many branches - they find the subject surrounded on all sides by a vague misty uncertainty. This uncertainty they miscall profundity, and ascribe their want of understanding to their own want of mental capacity, and continue to follow the winding ways of this subtle subject - more because they do not understand it, but hope to do sometime, than because they have yet attained any insight into its beautiful simple truth.

The true reason of this want of understanding is that like the "prisoners of Chillon" they are studying the shadow and not the substance, they study phenomena and accept phenomena as proof, as well might you try to prove the principle of mathematics by the size and shape of the figures used to express it, instead of using the figures in their proper way, giving them their rightful place relation and value to express a principle back of them, no one would make this mistake in the Science of Mathematics, yet many are making it in the study of the Science of mind - a science as exact as that of Mathematics, all metaphysical teaching which deals with any evidence discernable by any or all

of the five personal senses. one following the crooked
ways of this' phantom dance of false metaphysics, they
are reasoning from effect to effect - instead of from
Cause to effect, and it should not be difficult to see that
no matter how far or how fast they go, they will sooner or
later find themselves just - where they started, for they are
not following the straight - line of logic, but the curved
line of fancy of which Henry D. Thoreau wrote so aptly -

"If with fancy unfurled

You leave your abode,

You may go round the world

By the old snowbrough road",

and he might - have added get - no farther from the
starting point than that short road extended.

That which is without - the pale of the senses is
absolutely unthinkable and can not be thought - out or
thought - of, for it does not - come by thinking, but by
that certain understanding which is a faculty of mind
not - a function of brain. This thinking function is
a very peculiar one, we think we hear, think we see,
think we smell, think we taste, think we feel, we
even sometimes think we know. yet we may be
mistaken in all of these thinkings. How different
from this' is intelligence, before whose light all
mere thinking pales as the light - of a fire fly in
the broad glare of the noon day sun.

It is probable that every one of my hearers today or

believers in the Bible to a greater or less extent, and so would accept without question that oft-quoted but little understood statement of Paul that "Spiritual things must be spiritually discerned". but it may be there is one who would not so accept it, and for the benefit of that one I will try to bring other proof of that great truth, but first I would like to call the attention of those who do accept the statement, to the fact that every affirmation carries with it, its own negative condition.

If you accept one side of truth, you must accept every side, and it is said to be many sided, yet a great whole. If it be true that spiritual things must be spiritually discerned, it follows that material things can not be discerned by spirit. If, then, the Infinite All wisdom has fixed this great gulf which neither may cross, to what purpose is all this seeking in every way for evidence of the truth which, if it be truth, is now and must forever remain hidden to our untruthful personal senses. "Every thing in its own order" may be scripture language, but it is nature's law, by it every thing is governed from the blade of grass to the great red-wood, from the atom to the great central sun, from the single cell of animal life to the most-complex human organization, possibly farther, to organizations infinitely more complex than any thing we know of as yet. If anything ever violates this law of "Every thing after its own kind." it is straightway

cast-out from any place in nature and becomes that most-obnoxious thing - unnatural. How then do you expect the realm of Mind or Spirit to yield up to you who call yourselves material its secrets, in such form that you may comprehend them by any material or personal faculty which you may possess. If light could comprehend darkness, we should have something less of light; If understanding could comprehend ignorance, it would be less intelligent; If good could comprehend evil, there would be no good - no God.

False metaphysics is a subtle form of self-deception or perhaps more properly speaking - self-mesmerism - wherein the unreal asserts so loudly its reality, that our ears are dulled to the "still small voice" of Truth, and we give the assent of our senses to that which mislead - If it were aroused from its lethargy - would forever repudiate, now I am aware that I have implied something unscientific in that last statement, for in truth Mind is never lethargic, but seems to be, to the personal senses, who call themselves "I", asleep and dreaming, they dream that they sleep and dream - Is it not high time to awake out of such sleeps?

No one doubts the greatness of the rocks of Gibraltar but if Columbus in searching for a new world had been content to sail only round about them, listening to and repeating again stories of their greatness, he would never have found the - to him and his followers - unknown world.

It would have been useless to those who already inhabited this side but who can calculate what it would have meant to those upon the other, personally, Columbus might have had a much more comfortable time in his life than he did have, but his soul would never have expanded with the greatness of a hope realized nor his name been crowned with the glory of triumph, False metaphysics would forever soil around in the sea of personal sense, at the foot of its Gibraltar - human knowledge: Content that it is soiling no matter where, or whether it ever reaches port: True Metaphysics, - like Columbus of old - turns its back upon all the old landmarks, it accepts no traditions, legends, or hopeful predictions, but with the back toward every former knowledge, every mortal or personal testimony, it steers straight a clear out into the great unknown deep, there is a map, chart or compass for the solitary voyager who went this way before, has not returned, and the world has misunderstood his directions, but we have one help, "the light that lighteth every man that cometh into the world" and while this great glowing sun of intelligence shines full in our faces we know the our sails are set in the right direction, and we do not go for astray, even though we can reflect but a ray of its light.

Every real has its counterpart, There is a science of

mind, but it is not found in the realm of hypnosis. Science never deals with phenomena but noumena. It studies the cause not the effect.

Hypnotism, mesmerism and psychology are all one family, and all other studies in phenomena are more or less closely related to them. Hypnotism speaks for all and puts forth its claim that through the power of suggestion from one human mind to another, a criminal may be transformed into a saint or a saint into a criminal. I ask you, can you trust this power which may be either good or bad?

Has the Scripture language - and natural law - "Ora fountem can send forth both sweet and bitter water" - been changed to suit this new claimant for power?

The Science of physics does not teach us that two things of like quantity but opposite quality can occupy the same space at the same time, and Science is forever true, whether it be physical or metaphysical, but in all of its combinations, kinds and degrees, we have the same unalterable law, - one something and its negative. Even in the matter of sickness, while each particular form of that error may have its name, the one general name which embraces the whole is disease, not something but a want of some thing a want of ease, ease being the thing with a definite quality, whose want is but a negation.

Light- and darkness are not partners and coequal, light- is a definite quality while darkness is but the absence of light-.

In the mental realm we do not say that understanding and ignorance share honors equally between them, while it is true that ignorance like darkness is much more palpable to the senses than is understanding, yet we all know that ignorance is only the want of ^{that} understanding whereby the ignorance is annihilated, now you can not annihilate any thing, but darkness, ignorance Evil: being no thing - nothing, annihilation is their only doom, and that doom will be realized just- as for and as fast- as we put the something of light- Intelligence, the aliveness of God in the place of this want which is so opposite to us all.

There can be but one primal self-existent something, which must hold in itself all else, and this' primal self-existent something, whatever you may call it must be the creator, the originator, the Father and Mother of all else. The study of physics is the study of matter as matter is commonly understood and materialism has decided that matter is indestructible hence necessarily self-existent, that the earth and all solid bodies are pure matter, that all gases, the atmosphere and ether are but higher attenuations of this same matter, that the body of man is material, and the soul- if he has one- is matter, high attenuation- for the soul

too is indestructible and immortal, this matter being the fundamental self-existent and indestructible must of necessity be the Creator since like produces like.

The God they worship must be simply the highest attenuation of matter, this reasoning is within the pale of the senses, and can rise no higher than the senses. For "no stream can rise higher than its source", - and find its entire day and generation declared in the two brief scripture statements - "dust thou art, and unto dust thou shalt return"

This reasoning robs man - who is declared to be in image and likeness of God - robs him of any individuality reduces him to a piece of clay, it robs him of God and reduces him to the condition of all error chaos. False metaphysics is false in that it claims to be the science of mind, whereas it is only a study of the higher attenuation of matter as understood by materialists.

True metaphysics has no quarrel with any opposite, wisdom lies not in that direction.

The sun does not quarrel with the shadow of the mushroom, the sun has only to shine till presently the mushroom withers away, the shadow is gone.

True metaphysics has no part or parcel in any study of phenomena. It is based upon the solid ground that like produces like. Not mind, - Omnipotent God - made all that was made, and this statement like all

other affirmations, comes with it its own negative that no one else made anything, - the scripture language being, - "without him was not anything made that was made". As this creator is Mind-Spirit - and like produces like - we accept the creation in its grosser form as we perceive it, to be a mental creation, in its real character a spiritual creation, "whose builder and maker is God"

When man is declared to be the image and likeness of God, we do not look at man to learn what God must be like, for while an image and likeness may represent; it can never convey the full idea. Instead we inquire what is God? in order that we may understand his creation of which man is the crown piece,

God is principle, Infinite Good, all Embracing Mind, then not body face or form is included in the likeness, the kinship lies in quality, "Let us make man in our image and likeness, and let them have dominion" Is nothing else was dominion given save to man, and what is it that insures to man the subjugation of all beneath him? Understanding, Intelligence, Wisdom, various degrees of one quality, - Mind. They reflect and manifest the God over all by the subduing of all beneath them.

This is the mandate "Let there be light;" and its

fulfilment - "there was light", not the light perceived by the sense of sight - but the light of Intelligence whereby when truth dawns upon your soul you exclaim, I see! and this light is in as full force today - perhaps fuller - than at any period since the law was first proclaimed which is to reduce to their "native nothingness" sin, sickness and death, and "whoever loveth and smoketh a lie", by filling their seeming place with Life Truth and Love.

This is the Panacea for all ills of body and mind

This is the mission of the man Jesus, the work of the divine impulse - Christ,

The object, is the completion of Gods Creation which Paul declares is yet in an unfinished state.

Its beginning is the millennium,
Its ending is Heaven - eternal Harmony
unending progression,