

HEALING HELP SHRINKS GROWTH

Spiritual healing is a sometimes rather neglected part of Spiritualism's ministry, but one which still forms a vital part of our Movement's work. Here medium Ronald Hearn takes a look at spirit healing, illustrating his account with some case histories, writing that "it is the strong bond of love and caring between individuals that creates some kind of dynamic force."

It is generally assumed that healing power is directed from the spirit world to - and through - the healer. This may well happen to some extent, but it is unlikely it would completely explain the workings of such power. After many years' study and experience, I am more inclined to believe that healing power is generated from one individual to another. For some time I tended to believe that whilst giving healing to a person, the healer would in effect be overshadowed by a guide or helper who would channel this power through the hands to the patient.

We know so little about the spirit world, despite the claims of some to know where it is and exactly how it is. Because of the great love which exists between individuals it should by all accounts be a beautiful dimension, but nothing is proof positive until we see and experience for ourselves. I sometimes feel we put too much onus on our loved ones and most certainly on guides, if they exist. We have been taught that heaven is a wonderful place, but is it really a realm of miracles? There is an old saying that "God helps those who help themselves," with which I go along. Since I believe God to be the power of life itself and not an old man on a throne of judgement, if we can tune into that power, it holds untold possibilities. We can't expect to be shown everything as it is far better if we find out for ourselves.

There is little doubt that we are in this world for earthly experience. It is said that "Love makes the world go round." Consequently, it is the strong bond of love and caring between individuals that creates some kind of dynamic force. This is what I believe to be the basis of healing, although we most certainly could be helped and influenced by people in another dimension.

I feel there is little to learn about healing. There should be no set rules, but there needs to be advice given on the do's and don'ts. Healing ought to go

hand in hand with doctors and orthodox medicine. No healer can set bones or manipulate. Indeed, if common sense prevails there are a number of things a healer cannot do so if operations are necessary then so be it. Yet the power of healing can do wonderful things, with the laying-on of hands or even through the power of thought.

I feel strongly that if only we could set aside some of the old, outdated ideas and dig deeper into the fountain of knowledge, we could find exciting new ideas and get closer to the truth of life itself. It is important to be able to understand ourselves and then to help others accordingly.

My experience of mediumship and healing now spans many years. In my time I have helped a lot of people in both aspects, though at present my healing activity is comparatively less. I constantly experiment with new ideas in all fields and believe there are better ways of doing things, but it takes a lot of courage to break with tradition and dare to be different. When I first became involved with the psychic and healing, because I had much to learn, it was only right to do what any teacher might tell me.

With healing I was thrown into it, in a way. I used to belong to a little spiritualist church where, after the Sunday service, healing would be given to those who needed it. My role at first was to be there and generally helpful until one particular evening when the only healer present was John Blackwood, husband of famous medium Nora Blackwood. Several patients were waiting. I felt sorry for John having to cope alone. After a while he turned to me and said: "Come on, young man! It is time you helped." John placed another chair in the middle of the room, told a lady to sit down and for me to get on with it. I said, "But I cannot do healing and don't know where to begin." John's reply was simple. "Well now is the time to learn," he said. "Just place your hands on the lady's head and pray." Knowing no better, I did so. Suddenly, in my mind's eye I saw what appeared to be the silhouette of a Christmas tree and instinctively felt I should follow this pattern with my hands down the patient's back. "How did you know it was my back" she asked. "I didn't," I replied, "but just felt to do what I did." After a time I sensed it was enough and asked the lady if she felt better, but she did not. She thanked me for trying. Naturally, I felt very disappointed.

The next morning I was making my bed and, as I bent down, felt a very nasty pain in my back which lasted a few seconds and then cleared. I noted it was exactly 8 am and went about my business. The lady patient happened to sit in the same developing circle as me so we met the following evening. Her first words to me were: "You are wonderful! I've suffered great pain with my back for years, but yesterday morning at exactly 8 am my

daughter brought me a cup of tea in bed. Suddenly, the pain went and so far has not returned." It never did, so my first case was successful.

I did not feel a guide or any presence whilst working on her, but later when my abilities developed more so, there were many times when I felt some kind of help. My contention is that it does not matter who is responsible as long as a patient gets better. It is good to feel one has been of some help.

As time passed, I suppose I did follow in the more conventional ways of healing, but also experienced a lot of unusual things which suggested there must be a greater power at work, one we can use if we understand and take the right approach. Here enters the power of thought. I do not claim everyone can be healed, but if the circumstances are right, extraordinary things can happen. The following story is, in a way, quite remarkable.

One day I received a phone call from a dear friend in America. She was very distressed, having just discovered there was a large growth the size of a small football blocking the entrance of her uterus. Doctors felt there was not much hope unless they could try ray treatment, which was extremely doubtful. She had three days to decide if she would take the slender chance and asked me what she should do, but to be completely honest with her. Because I loved her dearly as a friend, I could not reply right then, being choked with emotion, and asked if she could call me in two days time. Meanwhile, I would think about it. It would be just before she went to hospital so she could be advised on whether to take her chances with the treatment. After I gathered my composure, I immediately phoned everyone who knew her, some of whom ran healing circles, and asked them to concentrate thoughts on her, which I also did. There must have been a mighty wave of powerful thought going out to her. This was born of love, for she was indeed loved by so many. The following evening I was out with some friends. As we walked across Waterloo Bridge I suddenly felt disturbed and said, "She will be OK if she has an operation." We had been talking about her beforehand, but I then knew what I must tell her when she next phoned. I warned her that it would be wrong to build her hopes too high, but my instincts told me there would be no ray treatment, but possibly an operation. A few days later she phoned to say that when she saw the doctors and they examined and X-rayed her again, the growth had shrunk to the size of a golf ball. The doctors could not understand how that could have happened, but were able to perform a complete hysterectomy and to remove the growth. She was then declared completely clear - and now several years later is in very good health.

Another interesting aspect is that being an opera singer, she was told the operation would take away her voice, but I felt sure it wouldn't...and she is

still singing. All this must have been greatly due to the love and caring radiated by so many people. Even if it was claimed to be purely psychological, it would still be amazing.

Part of my work is to help people help themselves, which could be the most important thing of all. We do not always realise what power lies within ourselves. It is written "Man know thyself," and likewise, "Man heal thyself." It seems very few of us can do both or either. We need help and to be able to rely on others for that. The pattern of this world seems to make us interdependent on each other as much as we do not always like it. I believe we do get help from the Other Side, but it is most important to consider our own potential and have a go. You never know what you can do until or unless you try.

Whenever I give healing now, I feel more comes from me, as if the solar plexus is a generating station. I care very much about people, which enables me to give from myself. It does not deplete, but one may get a little tired, only because the motor has run down a little and needs time to regenerate.

It would take far too long to tell other stores, but there are many fine examples of how power can be used to advantage. I have no wish to destroy what other people believe, but speak only from my personal experience.

The power within us is an exciting prospect. Healing, if we call it that, can not only cure or alleviate illness and suffering but help to develop potential and bring out the best in us. It can even help develop psychic ability or assist people in chosen professions to reach the top. All too often we hold back or become too satisfied with ourselves. This is an age where adventure and exploration are part of a way of life. It is our duty to ourselves and each other to accept the possibilities of the greater power, wherever it comes from, and do new and exciting things.