

Sixty Years of Christian Science: An Appreciation and a Critique (Paperback)



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Reviews

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(Audrey Lowe I)*

SIXTY YEARS OF CHRISTIAN SCIENCE: AN APPRECIATION AND A CRITIQUE (PAPERBACK)



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Independently Published, United States, 2019. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English. Brand new Book. This latest work from Mr. Martin's pen is unique among the books devoted to discussion of Christian Science. The fundamental ethical principles required of one who essays exposition and criticism of a movement which he does not represent are impartiality, sincerity, freedom of thought and expression, and these are characteristic both of Mr. Martin's "Appreciation" and his "Critique." In the introductory chapter the reader's attention is drawn to the distinction between tolerance and appreciation. "Tolerance," Mr. Martin says, "is the willing consent to let other people hold opinions different from one's own; appreciation is eagerness to do full justice to those opinions. It is the spirit which grants to Christian Science a respectful hearing, persuaded that its thesis contains some measure of truth, and the more unpromising its appearance, the more diligent the search for it must be. Instead of rudely relegating the movement to the limbo of the ridiculous and the irrational, the spirit of appreciation endeavors patiently to determine what life-giving element it contains, what needs it satisfies, what wants it supplies" (pp. 8, 9). The Critique throughout is constructive, even to the detail of Mrs. Eddy's mode of construing names and phrases from the Bible, Mr. Martin frankly admitting that all are at liberty to interpret the contents of the Bible in any way they choose; "but," he adds, "no one has a right to make the author responsible for the given interpretation. Good doctrinal material, even a Science of Health, may be extracted from the Scriptures, but this is not to be ascribed to the original intention of the author" (p. 19). Mr. Martin justly pleads for conscience and reason in this matter of interpretation in order that we shall "see things as they are and..."



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