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EDITORIAL

MRS. STETSON.

By DANIEL DE LEON

WHAT'S all this clatter, from Jew and Gentile quarters, about Mrs. Stetson, of Christian Science?

Why, from Jew and Gentile quarters, the ill suppressed glee at a "Split in Christian Science"; the ill-concealed sneer at "personal rivalries disrupting the fold of Christian Science"?

Let's look at the creed of Judaism. Is it a unit? Not since the day when Solomon was laid in his grave. Judaism split in twain, the Kingdom Israel and the King of Judah arose in hostile opposition;—and since that day the divisions never ceased, they even multiplied, as a stroll up Fifth avenue, with an eye to the Jewish synagogues will find attested in brick and mortar.

The case stands no better with Gentility; it stands a good deal worse. First, in order of chronology, is the split between the Greek and the Roman Catholic; next came the split in the Roman Catholic Church itself when two rival lines of Popes disputed legitimacy. And then came the further split, called the Reformation, which, in turn, split so numerously that a wag, looking over the long list of "Christian Denominations," irreverently remarked "they beat Heinz's Pickles in the number of variations." And, as with this branch of Gentility, so with all other, as illustrated by Mohammedanism, which barely half a century old, was ripped wide open, each of the two main factions anathematizing the other as "schismatic."

Christian Science is no exception. Mrs. Augusta Stetson and her followers deserve no sneers from older creeds. The split in Christian Science is no innovation. It merely attests the kinship of Christian Science to all other creeds.

Creeds, being man-made, are subject to all the ills that flesh is heir

to—differences of opinion, due to differences of temperament; and differences of ambitions, due to material interests.

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