Mind Over Matter: Inside the Christian Science Church
I find the satellite dish, off the Cambridge Common, and join a rapt audience in the church to watch an in-house TV show ... is dramatized by a series of interviews with passers-by in Boston who are asked to identify Mary Baker Eddy and fumble to

Etched on the wall of the Mother Church are these words of its founder:  "...disease is mental, hence the fact in Christian ... reality but a reflection of the limitation of the human mind.  Mortality and matter are themselves illusory.  If, say, a

Health

The fact that Jan Sherman is not alone in relying on this patently material device to correct her imperfect vision (she ... not escaped the notice of the Church's critics over the last century.  Why Novocaine but not aspirin?  Why splints but

With the single exception of a daily religious article, which is labeled "Daily Religious Article," a reader comes across ... really write a lot about religion."  One may wonder then why Christian Scientists insist on propping up the paper at

ivory horsehead bookends on his desk and flips it immediately to the right passage.  On another occasion he gently ... says.  "Numbers aren't that big a deal."  Well, in that case, why keep them secret?  He shrugs helplessly and gestures to

from the Church's other official text,

The new spate of prosecutions may not get anywhere, and the Church in any case evinces no sign of a siege mentality.  The ... arranged for insurance companies to reimburse for healings.  (From the Mutual of Omaha policy:  "The term 'physician' or

But the Church's legal troubles have not ended.  Two Scientists' children in California died in 1984 of bacterial ... College, a Church school north of St. Louis, came down with measles, and three died of complications.  Then, in the

"God!  And not man!  Is the primal cause!  Y'see:  There can't be more than one Supreme Being!  Or there wouldn't be ... a woman who was terrified to find "unnatural growths in each of her breasts" — terrified, that is, until she came upon

The material world has its hospitals and nursing homes; Christian Science has the "B.A."  Here is where old women, called ... sofas and tasteful curtains and grandfather clocks.  The guest rooms are equipped with speakers that play selections from

"...Christian Science is much more a science than a religion," says Prough.  "We're applying God's law, God's science.  It's just like applying the laws of math."  It is significant, she adds, that Mary Baker Eddy uses the word

"...the sort that speech coaches recommend.  After each gesture, her hands come to rest in front of her, with fingertips ...  She speaks slowly, her voice descending reassuringly at the end of each sentence as if she has reached the finale.

In 1987, the Church went into the shortwave business, installing the world's most powerful non-government transmitter in ... Maine and a second in the South Pacific; a third, in South Carolina, is expected to be operational next year [1989].

...downstairs and in the balconies.  It is a well-dressed crowd featuring a generous sprinkling of white hair, but a good number of younger folks, too, have come to tell of their healings.

psychoneuroimmunology confirms.  The fact is that faith healing often works:  attitude and emotional state affect susceptibility to, and recovery from, disease.

As for losing a patient, she says, "the only time a patient passed on was a case where the individual was ready to move on."