Chicago Man Gives Talk Here On Christian Science

A free lecture entitled "Christian Science: The Government by Divine Law," was given at Baldwin public high school auditorium last Saturday afternoon by Judge Samuel W. Greene, C. S. B., of Chicago, Illinois. Judge Greene is a member of the Board of Lectureship of The Mother Church, The First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston, Mass. Following is a portion of his lecture:

One of the first impressions that comes to the beginner in Christian Science is one of satisfaction on finding a religious teaching that is exact—that is really scientific and in accord with law. Law has held for the masses a place of respect, dignity, even majesty. From the standpoint of law, Christian Science makes a tremendous appeal to the logical reasoning thought.

The Discoverer and Founder of Christian Science, Mary Baker Eddy, in her book, "Rudimental Divine Science" (p. 1), defines Christian Science "As the law of God, the law of good, interpreting and demonstrating the divine Principle and rule of universal harmony."

The Discoverer and Founder

This use of legal phraseology to define Christian Science may be an indication of how earnestly and broadly Mrs. Eddy studied and searched to discover the basis of Jesus' healing method.

To turn to the Bible for help was her last hope after a long and fruitless search for health among material remedies. Turning to God as she did with hope and faith she quickly saw the healing power manifested in restored health.

She then applied herself to a study of the Bible that she might know the scientific basis of her healing. As she studied, the Scriptures were illumined, and she saw and understood how healing depends upon a knowledge of God, as is evidenced in one of Jesus' most comprehensive promises, "This is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent." She saw that all of Jesus' healings came through his reliance upon God. She saw that Jesus claimed no exclusive right to do spiritual healing but that the same healing power could be exercised by all who believed on him—that is, understood the Christ. Thus was she led unerringly to the discovery that this scientific healing is in accord with divine law. Therefore, its practice is not limited, but is available for every earnest seeker after God who adheres to the plan outlined in Christian Science.

The Bible

In her study of the Bible, she saw that the contents of the Old Testament, when properly interpreted, revealed more or less discernment of God's law on the part of the notable characters therein mentioned. The so-called miracles and unusual incidents of the Bible are much more reasonably believable in the light of their scientific or spiritual understanding as taught in Christian Science.

Mortal man, under the accustomed material theory of life today, finds himself in bondage to many hard masters, such as disease, poverty, hatred, strife, and sin. One day he discovers in Christian Science the Truth which enables him to break the shackles of material belief and to follow the pillar of cloud by day and of fire by night through a sometimes rough path to spiritual light and understanding — the promised land. Mrs. Eddy has expressed the figure beautifully in the textbook, "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures" (p. 566), in these words: "As the children of Israel were guided triumphantly through the Red Sea, the dark ebbing and flowing tides of human fear,—as they were led through the wilderness, walking wearily through the great desert of human hopes, and anticipating the promised joy,—so shall the spiritual idea guide all right desires in their passage from sense to Soul, from a material sense of existence to the spiritual, up to the glory prepared for them who love God. Stately Science pauses not, but moves before them, a pillar of cloud by day and of fire by night, leading to divine heights."

The Textbook

For the purpose of enabling the Bible student to understand its spiritual import and significance, and to elucidate the practical operation of Christian Science, Mrs. Eddy wrote the Christian Science textbook, "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures."

At first the book evoked a storm of criticism from medical, religious, and scientific sources, but gradually, as faithful men and women studied it, some under the author's tutelage, others independently, and began to apply its teachings, the healing of sin, disease, and other human problems resulted. To-day spiritual healing, as practiced in Christian Science, is generally recognized as possible and of common occurrence. Indeed some medical men are sending the so-called incurables to Christian Science, and many preachers are advocating a study of the methods of spiritual healing. The Christian Science textbook is now well known in most libraries of any importance. It has been the agency through which great numbers of invalids and unfortunates have found health, happiness, and comfort.

God

In Christian Science, God is understood to be infinite Mind, Spirit, Soul, Principle, Life, Truth, Love. With this understanding one is lifted into a higher, broader field of vision. He begins to ponder and to study, then to have a desire to make this concept of God his own experience. Personally, I can never forget the mental and spiritual exaltation that came to me when I opened the Christian Science textbook and read from the first chapter (p. 1), "The prayer that reforms the sinner and heals the sick is an absolute faith that all things are possible to God,—a spiritual understanding of Him, an unselfed love." I had always wanted to believe in such an infinite power, but my so-called orthodox concept of God had prevented any such vision.

The concept of God as Principle enables us to realize His presence and power as ever available. It does not locate God in a heaven far removed from earth and human experience, but gives us the sweet assurance that at all times and under all circumstances He is present and His omnipotence available for the solution of our every problem. It is in effect the adoption of the first Commandment in its full meaning. It is a refusal to concede power to another than God, thus allowing no other gods before Him.

Man

Closely related to a consideration of God's nature and being is the thought of what man really is. Christian Science adopts the theory of creation as unfolded in the first chapter of Genesis, that man is created in God's image and likeness and is therefore spiritual. Jesus says, "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." This certainly implies that we must know God—must apprehend Him—understand Him—in spirit and in truth. The average person, when he stops to consider, will generally agree that he can know God only through spiritual apprehension or understanding—he does not expect to see God with the human eye or touch Him with the hand. Then man, in His image and likeness, must as certainly be apprehended or understood spiritually.

We can look at the expression "four times five are twenty" on a blackboard and be conscious of its existence as a basic law of mathematics, but erasing the figures does not destroy the idea it conveys, or lessen its definiteness in one's concept. One may look upon a material object, such as a chair, and be conscious that the object can be burned or destroyed, but that the spiritual idea back of it, whatever it is as an idea of Mind continues as a reality.

Healing

This spiritual concept of God and of man, positively applied in one's thinking, leads to healing. There is no mystery about it, nothing to alarm or antagonize. It is to concede that this is now God's world, that man, His image or idea, is governed by Him—by His law. It is to deny that there is other law or power to interfere with or to prevent the full and perfect enforcement of God's law. It is the prayerful effort to bring one's concept of life into accord with the Word of God. Paul says, "Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation." Christian Science is therefore taking for man a logical position as governed by God who is the only power. It recognizes that whosoever resists God's law, does so at his peril.

Christian Science affirms the perfection of being and denies the reality of disease, pain, and suffering because of the fact that God is Love, and therefore unable and unwilling to afflict His children. If God does not afflict, then the so-called disease or affliction is unreal because "there is no power but of God."

In the medical treatment of disease, things are dealt with and given power, while in Christian Science thoughts are dealt with as real and having power. In medical treatment, the doctor gives certain medicines which he thinks will eliminate poisonous refuse and germs from the system; then he gives what he thinks will strengthen and build up the system.

In Christian Science, the treatment begins by eliminating from thought all that poisons, such as fear, hatred, envy, jealousy, anxiety, and sin. Then the thought is filled with what is strengthening, such as love, truth, joy, happiness, and goodness.

A careful study of the Bible with the Christian Science textbook reveals the availability of God's law for the practical solution of all human problems.

For the inquirer, then, there is no better counsel than to study faithfully the Bible and the works of Mrs. Eddy. Not only will such study bring to one much satisfaction and peace of mind, but it has been the experience of many to be healed in their reading and study.

Some time ago I visited in the home of a woman whose experience proves the value of an earnest study by the invalid. She had been sick with lung trouble a long time, and had been given up by the doctors, who said that one lung was entirely destroyed. Some one recommended that she try Christian Science for healing. She did not believe there was any hope of healing, but she professed her willingness to investigate it, if it would help her to know God.

She procured the textbook and immediately began to read it, and to compare its statements with the Bible. She did not have a treatment or even think of healing at first. Presently, however, she was conscious of a change in her condition, and eventually was entirely healed. This healing took place many years ago, and she is now a strong, healthy woman, and is engaged in the practice of Christian Science.

In our everyday human experiences we are familiar with the teaching that tasks become much less difficult if we begin and continue our work with confidence in its ultimate success. Likewise in working out our problems in accord with God's law, we should always begin with confidence that we can depend on God, that His power never faileth, or, as the textbook puts it (p. 1), "an absolute faith that all things are possible to God."

Perhaps fear is more the cause of all sickness and business failure than any other thought. Let us be rid of fear, doubt, and anxiety. The Master said to the despairing father of the demoniac boy, "If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth."

Application to Business

The average person is inclined to the opinion that religion is thoroughly respectable, and should be patronized. A small number even take a real interest in the activities of the church, make contributions of time and money, and give it some serious thought.

Christian Science, rightly applied, enables men to utilize the law of God continually and successfully in their daily affairs. It is a false theory that there is a distinction between the so-called sacred and the so-called secular. When one understands that God is All, and is to be continually taken into account in the doing of his daily task, he finds that making a pair of shoes or an automobile or printing a newspaper, may be a holy and sacred activity.

What is a Newspaper?

To make clear my meaning, consider some examples of the possibility of resolving things into thoughts. Take the newspaper business and consider how it may be resolved into thought.

A newspaper, resolved into thought, represents truth, light, morality, education, uplift, religion, government, patriotism, etc. Some statistician has said that ninety per cent of the world's education attained after the age of eleven years comes through reading the newspapers. What a tremendous responsibility rests upon the newspaper makers of the world. How great the need that these men should be led to see this lesson of resolving things into thoughts and giving the world those thoughts which will make for a better, finer citizenship.

Citizenship

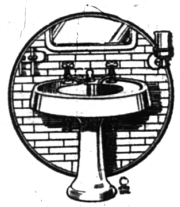
Closely related in thought to the newspaper is the attitude of the citizen toward his civic obligation. Are we recognizing that this is God's country and that the "government shall be upon his shoulder"? Government resolved into thought stands for protection, love, unselfishness, union, justice, tranquility, and liberty. In our choice of public officials, are we making any such spiritual selection? It is our privilege to see in every official position the opportunity for the reflection of spiritual qualities, honesty, love, justice, and courage. When we begin to invest public office with spiritual qualities, we shall see this type of men and women aspiring to such service. It will be bringing into execution the spiritual law of the Christ "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me." When we see government as the operation of Mind, we shall no more have corruption, dishonesty, and selfishness, but integrity, harmony, and peace. Human government is good or bad, dependent upon the purity and steadiness of our reflection of God. As our human consciousness retains less of the material and more spiritual, we shall approach a better understanding of government and our relation to it.

Universal commendation of

(Concluded on Next Page)

WE HEARD IT SAID BY—

Luther D. Allen, president of the Village of Bloomfield Hills: "I am well acquainted with the country in and around Hale, Michigan, where the Oakland County Y. M. C. A. has purchased a summer camp site. I think that the selection of that country for a summer camp is an excellent choice, for it offers all the necessary wildness and picturesqueness that are needed to capture the fancy and heart of any boy."



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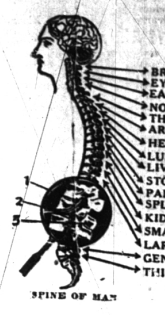
Under chiropractic adjustments this interference is removed, and nature restores the stomach to its normal condition. Then the former sufferer can eat as he should.



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