

Club Conference Honors Dr. Kagawa at May Breakfast

Memorable among club events was the May breakfast of the Conference of Club Presidents and Program Chairmen, at which, on Saturday last, the conference presented to Dr. Toyohiko Kagawa, outstanding native Christian in Asia, its first annual award of \$500 for his distinguished service to humanity.

Wilmette and the north shore shared in that occasion by having many residents there. Wilmette especially played its part, because on the conference board the Woman's Club of Wilmette has two members, Mrs. R. E. Pattison Kline, and Mrs. Harvey A. Bush. It is the only club among the more than three hundred member clubs to be so represented. Mrs. Bush and Mrs. Kline were at the long speaker's table, hostesses for the day with other members of that board.

Really impressive was the occasion. It aroused more than a feeling of satisfaction over a festive day and a splendid program. It left a feeling somewhat indescribable — thought-provoking. To Dr. Kagawa leading ministers of Chicago church groups of several creeds paid tribute Saturday at that breakfast in the Grand ballroom of the Stevens, crowded even to the balcony and foyer with tables at which 2,200 persons were seated, the largest assemblage such an event has attracted.

The guest of honor was named as one of the four greatest humanitarians of this age. Listening to the sincere tributes of the ranking church leaders one felt that they as one believed him to be inspired in his life work of spreading the doctrine of brotherly love, world peace and understanding, regardless of race and of creed. In his own words Dr. Kagawa says he dedicates his whole life to "go where there are poor and friendless, to go where no one wants to go, to go where no one did go." Slum clearance, world peace, are the banners he carries. The arousing and nurturing of the feeling of humanitarianism in individuals all over the world is the goal toward which his steps are set. His voice, insistent, persistent, while living for thirteen years in the slums of Japan, could not be drowned. The result was that the Japanese government appropriated huge sums to clear the slums in four of its largest cities. His voice, in his poems, in his writings, in the forty books of which he is author, is being heard around the world. All royalties from his writings, \$100,000 at present, as will the award he received Saturday, go to his work in city slums.

Dr. Preston Bradley gave the invocation. The Most Rev. Bernard J. Sheil, Rabbi Louis Mann, and the Rev. Charles Gilkey, deeply sincere, joined in their recognition of him. Dr. Gilkey named Kagawa of Japan with Gandhi of India, Schweitzer of Germany, and as America's nearest approach, Jane Addams of Hull House, as ranking humanitarians in "this machine and materialistic age," as ardent advocates of peace among nations.

Dr. Mann, in one of the finest tributes we have heard, beautifully expressed his simple definition of what he believes the essence of all religion should be, "love without limitation, love without reservation, love without hesitation." That, he declared, is what Dr. Kagawa is giving the world. Lastly, his gentle, rever-

ent touch on the guest of honor's bowed head had an eloquence greater than words.

Mrs. Charles S. Clark, president of the conference, in her poised and graceful way introduced the speakers, and the many distinguished guests, including the consul of Japan, and leaders in many fields, clubs, church, art, music, philanthropy.

Music and dance were combined in the unusually fine program. The beautiful ringing tenor voice of Frederic Yagel of opera, concert and radio fame, was heard in three groups of selections, German lieder, opera aria, English songs. Ted Shawn and his men dancers completed the program with dances of Shawn's own creation, brief, dramatic, modern.

Japanese symbolism influenced the decorations of the speaker's table, the committee for which was assisted by Mrs. Edward L. Scheidenhelm of Wilmette.

The day was well worth remembering.—J.T.B.

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