

SYNOPSIS OF LECTURE ON CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

(Continued from page 12)

vited his father to ask him some questions about the Scriptures. The father soon propounded this: "How old was Adam when he died?" The child thought deeply for a moment or two and then said, very earnestly, "I'll tell you daddy, the less you and I know about Adam the better off we will be!" In a word, therefore, this is the message that Christian Science may well give to those earnest folk who insist that deliverance for the human family lies along the path of materialism. Go to the man or woman bowed low with the problems of appetite, animality, or seemingly hopeless disease. Try to lift him up or heal him by preaching the theory that he is but an aggregation of material cells, that he is a resident in and governed by matter, and that his origin is in brute force; or try to bring comfort and healing by reciting this verse, reminiscent of the hopeful and hopeless theology of a generation ago:

"Hail, ye sighing sons of sorrow!
View with me the autumnal gloom.
See your fate—alas, to-morrow,
Dead perchance within the tomb!"

What a bungling comforter has the human, material sense of things ever been! Now Christian Science, the scientific Comforter, proclaims joyously that man is not a sighing son of sorrow, nor is he cursed as Adam's progeny. He is not material, nor evolved from jelly-fish or apes. He is as spiritual as his Creator, and is governed by the emancipating, omniscient law of Mind.

Problem of Unemployment

Was there ever a time when skilled comforters, practical helpers, and those able to solve humanity's problems were more needed? Consider for a moment the economic situation. Alarming statistics are being published as to the large number of unemployed in practically every country on the globe; but if the truth were known, the number of those actually unemployed is far greater than that specified by the statisticians. A dictionary definition of "unemployed" is given as "not put to use or turned to account." Could there be a better description of the mentalities of literally millions of mortals than this? Instead of fulfilling man's birthright and true purpose of thinking rightly, and being employed in the glorious activity of spiritual knowing, they unfortunately exemplify the case of the man in Gilbert's famous verse, who said that he always voted at his party's call and never thought of

thinking for himself at all!

True Employment

Now the first step in the solution of the problem of unemployment, or uncongenial and unprofitable occupation, is to begin with one's own thinking, and see that it is employed—put to use—in spiritual knowing. It will be noticed that here the word "knowing" was used, and not the word "thinking." Our Master did not say, "If you think about the truth, it will make you free. His definite command was to 'know' the truth. And again he said, 'This is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.' 'But how may I know Him?' is the despairing cry of humanity. First by being introduced to Him, second by trusting Him, and lastly by proving His actuality and law in demonstration.

Faith the First Step

Among his first lessons the child in school is introduced by his teacher to numbers. Laboriously he learns their names, and soon in childish scrawl is able to draw a few figures. One day on returning from school his mother asks, "What did my little boy learn to-day?" Promptly he replies, parrot-like, "One plus one equals two." "How do you know it does?" queries the mother. "Because the teacher said so," confidently and promptly replies the child. There is not the slightest doubt about it. His faith in the teacher's knowledge and guidance is without a flaw. But one day he is playing with some toys, and places one block upon another block. Gradually it dawns upon him that this is what is meant by "One and one are two." At that moment blind faith disappears, and a ray of understanding enters his thought, followed by an ability intelligently to use the principle and solve problems.

Faith Becoming Understanding

To-day, to the children of men in the great school of human experience, comes the Teacher, the promised Comforter. It finds them struggling along, vainly striving to solve their problems, without the slightest understanding of law or Principle. Gently it leads their thought to the recognition of God as the infinitely good intelligence or Mind which governs in perfect harmony man and the universe. At first such a glorious conception of cause and effect seems almost too good to be true; but let us accept it on faith at the outset. And what heartening evidences have we to strengthen our faith! Not only is there the great mass of Scriptural testimony as to the healing and saving efficacy of spiritual truth, but the ever-increasing army of present-day witnesses, who report that this new-found understanding of God is enabling them to conquer sin, sickness, lack, and wretchedness, and to gain at least a taste of heaven here and now. The Comforter then bids us accept the loving invitation found on the very first page of the Preface of Science and Health, and lean "on the sustaining infinite." Now, to lean means to rest for support and comfort. Christian Science asks us to take God at His word and practically lean, rest for support and comfort, on Him. This means that if one is confronted with a problem of lack, he will begin as a little child to trust that loving Father and Mother of the universe to care for him as he would trust a tender earthly parent. And again and again with the silencing of the mesmerism of fear, self-will, self-pity, or human outlining there comes to the human consciousness just the idea to meet the need. Therefore, with the problem of unemployment one needs first to see that his thought is employed gaining trust in the great Giver of all good, and, secondly, that he is opening the door of his

(Continued on page 34)

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