

Lecture on Christian Science Given Tuesday at Elm Place School

A lecture on Christian Science entitled "Christian Science; The Law of Love Revealed and Demonstrated" was given last Tuesday evening at the Elm Place Auditorium.

The lecturer was Richard Davis, C.S. of Chicago, a member of the Board of Lectureship of The Mother Church, The First Church of Christ, Scientist, of Boston, Mass.

The lecture was sponsored by the First Church of Christ, Scientist, of Highland Park. A report follows:

In the book of Isaiah the prophet has written, "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath appointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; . . . to appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he might be glorified." This beautiful and comforting statement declares the promise and office of Christian Science. It expresses the love which prompts these lectures. It explains why I am here, and it voices the joy we take in speaking of our religion to those who do not know it or who have not yet experienced its blessings.

We are living in an era of scientific thinking, an age when the emphasis is being laid on science—material science of all kinds. We recognize that discoveries in the realm of the physical sciences are important. Progressive inventions are all helpful and encouraging, but viewed from the standpoint of comparative values, have all the discoveries of the ages in the realm of matter brought to light any information, fact, or law that will bring comfort and real healing to the sick and suffering; that will make the crooked straight and the rough places plain; that will heal sick hearts? What discovery or scientific law can lift the sinner out of bondage to false appetites and destructive habits? Have all or any of the philosophers, thinkers, and scholars of centuries, sincere though their efforts may have been, contributed to the race a scientific law that will make sure and certain the one fundamental essential to human existence, namely, happiness, an understanding of heaven? Reviewing the situation for a moment, we see that practically all the research and the study of centuries has centered wholly in matter and in material thinking. In view of this, and certainly in view of the results,—that the race still has far to go morally, that disease has by no means been eradicated, and the poverty and financial distress are still much in evidence,—one may naturally inquire, If all these centuries of study in the realm of matter have failed to bring humanity health, happiness, and heaven, why not make a right about face and direct all our thought, effort, and investigation toward the realm of Spirit, toward the understanding of spiritual law?

DIVINE PRINCIPLE AS GOD. Mary Baker Eddy, the Discoverer and Founder of Christian Science, did turn from matter, and with that compassionate impulse expressed in the verse which I have just quoted from Isaiah, earnestly sought the remedy for human ills in the realm of Spirit. Her search resulted in the discovery of what she termed Christian Science,—the Science of Truth,—the demonstrable understanding of God and His Christ. She proclaimed that the divine Principle of the universe is Love; that God, the cause and creator of all being is Love—universal, all-inclusive, and omnipotent. It is of this law, the law of Love, the understanding of which she grasped and then made practically applicable in human affairs, that I shall speak tonight.

There are those who, at this point, may reasonably be questioning: How do we know that God is Love? What do we mean by love and can we conceive of a principle as love? When John declared that God is Love he was certainly not expressing a mere metaphysical abstraction, nor was he endeavoring to formulate a concept of Deity based on sentiment or emotion. He was stating a spiritual fact. Even from a human standpoint, as we view the universe, the wonders of earth and sky, we are obliged to concede a certain evidence of law and order, and it is encouraging that in the last few months two eminent physical scientists, Sir James Jeans of Cambridge University, England, and Professor Arthur Compton of the University of Chicago, have declared that their investigations are leading inevitably to the conclusion that the universe is the result and expression of orderly thought. Pope said many years ago that "Order is heaven's first law," and there is plenty of evidence, if we look for it today, that a divine Principle or law governs the entire universe in uninterrupted harmony. The presence of an evil force in creation, or the premise that Principle, or God, is both good and evil would inevitably, ultimate in the self-destruction of the universe. If that Principle is anything less than intelligent Love are we not doomed to chaos and oblivion?

The Anglo-Saxon term for God is good, and if the sublime cause or law of creation be good, then must it not be exact, right, perfect, orderly, all-harmonious, capable of producing only a beneficent result? Rightness, or righteousness, expresses the very nature of divinity. The attributes of an altogether righteous Principle or law must inevitably be mercy, justice, wisdom, and exactness. Love in Christian Science is neither sweet nor bitter, neither hard nor soft, but is exact, just, and fair. These qualities are as truly loving as gentleness, tenderness, and other characteristics usually associated with Love.

The law of Love is not material, not physical, not tangible to the senses. It is wholly spiritual and mental, and though not discernible to human eyes, we know that it exists. The so-called law of gravitation remains unseen, but we see its effect. The rules and laws of mathematics are this moment operating in perfect harmony everywhere—in the United States, in Siberia, in Java, in the ends of the earth. How much more truly, then, may we say that the law of Love is active and operative, here and everywhere, right now. Man is not called upon to enforce the law of Love, for it is its own enforcement; but he does become conscious of its existence and experience the revelation, in his own consciousness, of its action.

Can you conceive of this world without love, a loveless universe, an earth with love left out? Even the most barbarous savage will reveal in some action that love, the impulse to be kind, is basic in consciousness and there is no one who will not at length respond to its gentle and compelling influence. The atheist will tell you that there is no God, but he will not deny that something impels him to be kind to his neighbor and to love his own child. He may not have analyzed this impulse, but whether he realizes it or not, he is expressing what we in Christian Science understand to be the law of Love, the divine Principle of all existence. We recognize, therefore, that Love exists as thought, as Mind, and that the law of Love is consciously brought into action by right thinking. Today we see some faint manifestation of Love in man and rejoice; yet think what a world of peace and harmony there might be, if all about us we saw only the evidence of divine Love's impulsion!

There are, no doubt, here tonight people who have experienced much trouble, unhappiness, loss, and pain in their lives, and possibly some one of them may say: "How can I love God, a God who sends sorrow and suffering? How can God be Love, when I have had so much unhappiness? God does not appear very lovable to me." May it not be possible we are unconsciously holding God responsible for a difficulty which lies with ourselves? Suppose one of us were to break a traffic or speed law with our car, and were to be arrested, fined, and punished. Could we very logically blame our trouble on the law or on the judge who fined us? Does the law itself know anything about the infraction or violation? Not at all. Both the judge and the law are quite impartial. Then where does our difficulty come from? Solely from our ignorance or our willful disobedience or lack of conformity to the law. Is it not clear, then, that in the same way what seems to us punishment, suffering, and pain, come not through the law of Love, but because our lives and our thinking are out of harmony with the law. The adjustment which needs to take place is not in the law, but in our own attitude toward the law. The law of Love, therefore, even though it seems to chastise, is truly loving, if out of the experience comes a happier and better life. All that is needed is that we shall cease struggling against the law of Love and come into unity with its tender action. Then shall we see God's great purpose fulfilled in our lives. The human sense struggles to work out its own destiny, even while divine Love waits to fulfill every aspiration soaring toward good.

Wisconsin Men Injured in Crash Wednesday

Paul Schuster and Art Abraham, both of Sheboygan, Wis., and two girls, one of whom gave her name as Ruth Riley, were injured in a crash at the intersection of Prairie Avenue and Waukegan Road yesterday morning.

The two men were driving a truck, carrying a load of eggs, south on Waukegan Road, when the Plymouth sedan, driven by one of the women, ran into the side of it. Evidently they failed to heed the stop sign on Prairie Avenue.

Abraham's left arm was broken and he received several cuts. Schuster, who was driving the truck, suffered severe cuts on his left hand and about his head. Both of the girls were badly cut and bruised.

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Plan To Improve Girl Scout Council

Plans for reinforcing and strengthening Highland Park's Girl Scout Council by the addition of vice-chairmen to all standing committees were discussed at a special meeting at the home of Mrs. Benedict K. Goodman, Mrs. Katie Lee Johnson, director of Girl Scout work in the Great Lakes region, presented several constructive new ideas, in an informal talk to the members.

Although 9,000 new Girl Scouts have been added to the national enrollment this past year, the six Highland Park troops still number approximately the same. This seeming discrepancy is due not to lack of interest on the part of Highland Park girls, but to the difficulty of finding enough adequate meeting places. "A community house such as Winnetka has to offer would completely change the picture in Highland Park," said Mrs. Johnson.

Mrs. Walter Neisser has accepted the position of vice-chairman of publicity. It was announced that Miss Hadley of Holyoke, Mass., will be the new local director for the New Trier Area Girl Scout Council, commencing in February.

TROOP 22

At the last meeting we began making preparations for the tea, which we are giving for our mothers on Jan. 31, when three Scouts, Barbara Bovee, Josephine Lloyd, and Nancy Goodman, will receive their hostess badge. After every girl had written an invitation for her mother, we were told more about the Girl Scout Rally on Feb. 21 in Winnetka. There will be an investment of badges and awards, in which every New Trier Area troop will be represented.—Nancy Goodman, scribe.

GIVES TEA TO MOTHERS

Mrs. John F. Brent gave a tea for the mothers of Troops 30 and 32 at her home on Beech Lane Monday afternoon. Fourteen tenderfoot Scouts were invited, accompanied by the color guard.

TROOP 27

Monday, Jan. 28, the girls went into patrol corrages, took attendance and dues. We discussed what we wanted to do as a knot game for the rally on Feb. 21. Then we went into different groups. There was one group for the passing of the hostess badge, another for first aid, one for signaling, one for observation walk, and the rest were playing games. We played a game called "camp fire notions" and then had a good night circle. A short court of honor

was held after the others had gone home. They tried to figure out what to do at the rally. Then the girls went home.—Betty Hobbs, scribe.

TROOP 30

The Girl Scouts of Ravinia had their regular meeting Monday, Jan. 28. We accomplished a great many things. Mrs. Muffler was there to give instructions for the hostess badge and the second class first aid. The following girls completed their second class observation: Barbara Bovee, Marilyn Lutzmann, Margaret Anderson, Frances Holmgren, Beverly Date, Pauline Blume and Alice Woodbury. Plans were discussed for the tables on "The Five Points of Health" to be given at the Girl Scout rally on Feb. 21. We then played several games after which we had the good night circle.—Rachel Brent, scribe.

TROOP 28

Thursday, Jan. 24, the meeting opened with the flag ceremony and the singing of "America the Beautiful." Everyone then adjourned to patrol corners. The troop has been studying very hard in order to have everyone a second class scout by Feb. 21. All the second class scouts have been working for their first class badges. The tenderfoots have been working on their second class signaling, compass and nature badges. Each tenderfoot scout has been placed under the direction of a second class scout while she is making her nature notebook. We hope to have our nature books on display Feb. 21. The second class scouts have passed their first aid and are now working on their weights and measures. It is very embarrassing to be lying on the floor judging the length of a table when a group of people come along. They look at you with a half-puzzled half-pitying gaze.—Miriam Stockwell, scribe.

H. P. Hockey Team Beats Waukegan 4-3

Through a misunderstanding the league game with Waukegan which was booked to be played at Highland Park, on Sunday, January 27, was changed to Waukegan. The Highland Park boys won the game by a score of 4 to 3, showing tremendous game, owing to the fact that they were able to put in several nights of good hard practice in the past week. Their team work and pass-contact was a feature of the game. Every one of the boys put up a fine game of hockey and it is difficult to pick out any individual as a star.

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Refereeing was poor, with the result that the local boys were penalized a great deal oftener than Waukegan, and deserved more credit because they were playing one man short at such times. There will be a league game at Sunset Park on Thursday, Jan. 31 at 8:30 p.m. weather permitting. The local boys are anxious to win as Waukegan is leading them by only one point.

Team line-up is as follows: R. Halverson, c.; F. Karger, l.w.; B. Chambers, r.w.; R. Carr, c.; R. Hammond, l.w.; B. Carr, r.w.; B. Zola, c.; L. Steffens, l.w.; K. Tritschler, r.w.; C. Rankin, d.; E. Zimmerman, d.; T. Cabonargi, d.; H. Bowman, d.; E. Olson, goal.

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