

ENTER FIFTH WEEK OF "CONFERENCE NIGHTS"

Dr. Harris Franklyn Rall Gives Enlightening Talk on Science and Prayer

Dr. Harris Franklyn Rall of Northwestern university addressed the fourth meeting of Six Conference Nights at the Winnetka Congregational church last Wednesday on the subject, "Does Science Leave Room for Prayer," a topic so difficult and perplexing that a large audience greeted him.

After reciting the most usual reasons given for disbelief in the efficacy of prayer, and asking whether the world of scientific law leaves any reason for believing that an infinite God is concerned with the petty cares of mere human beings, Dr. Rall said in part:

"One might as well ask, does the house leave room for a home? Does the body exclude the soul?"

"Science describes the world of things and how they behave. That world has its laws, and it is a real world. But it is not the only world. The real world is the world of spiritual being, of personality, with God as the supreme Spirit who is the home of all life and the explanation of it all.

Has Own Laws

"This world of the personal and spiritual has its own laws, its own ways of behavior. The world of things is held together by the "law" of gravitation. The world of persons is held together by the law of understanding and fellowship. Society is the fellowship of men. Religion is fellowship with God.

"Prayer is fellowship with God coming to conscious expression. It is as inevitable in religion as conversation is in society. Men have made it narrow, sometimes magical, sometimes mechanical. Some men have the "Gimme" idea of prayer; praying is just an act of begging. But prayer is something far finer, far richer.

"In prayer a man takes his whole life and brings it before God. It means meditation, calling to our mind the great realities and meanings of life, and, first of all, God himself. The man who is so busy with what he wants that he has not time to think of God has yet to learn the first lesson of praying. It means clearing up our vision and renewing our allegiance. Our prayer, like Jacob's, may be a big struggle, but with ourselves, not with God.

"Is there to be no asking in prayer?"

Surely. If Jesus is right, then surely the Father will be interested in everything that concerns his children. And children take everything to their Father if they really trust him. And who are we to measure what God can do or what his love will do, whether we need forgiveness or bread? Yet two things we need to remember. If we look to God first of all, then we will be more ready to trust God than to insist upon our petitions. And if we look at God's way in his world, then we will be more ready to see that God's way is one of order and our prayers will be most quickly answered if we learn his ways and so how to work with him."

Beatty Talk Popular

Willard W. Beatty addressed a large group earlier in the evening on "Why We Behave." His talks have attracted wide interest among parents and teachers, Dr. J. W. F. Davies and the Rev. Thomas Goodwin also met enthusiastic audiences in their discussions.

The fifth meeting of the Six Conference Nights will be held Wednesday evening, February 24, under the auspices of the Congregational church, at Community House. On that evening Dr. Rall will speak at 8:15 o'clock on "Evolution and Immortality."

In the absence of Mr. Beatty, Miss Stewart will discuss "The Relation of Parents and Teachers," and answer questions which have been raised. The Rev. Thomas A. Goodwin will discuss the Book of Revelations, while Dr. J. W. F. Davies approaches the end of the inquiry which his group is making into "The Race Problem in American Cities."

Carl L. Lochner Joins Walter P. Smith Staff

Carl L. Lochner, formerly manager of the Glencoe office of Gilbert D. Johnson and Bro., has become associated with Walter P. Smith and company, real estate brokers at 332 Park avenue.

Mr. Lochner is one of the best known real estate operators in this vicinity and an authority on north shore properties, particularly in Glencoe. His affiliation with Walter P. Smith and company is regarded as a notable addition to the staff of that progressive organization.

Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Boyden and their daughter, Miss Margaret and Miss Elisabeth, of 725 Pine street, are leaving for the East and will sail next week for a Mediterranean cruise. They expect to be abroad about three months.

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