

LIVING AND PRAYING

I knelt to pray when day was done,
 And prayed, "O Lord, bless everyone;
 Lift from each saddened heart the pain,
 And let the sick be well again."
 And then I woke another day
 And carelessly went on my way.
 The whole day long I did not try
 To wipe a tear from any eye;
 I did not try to share the load
 Of any brother on any road.
 I did not even go to see
 The sick man just next door to me,
 Yet once again when day was gone,
 I prayed, "O Lord, bless everyone."
 But as I prayed, into my ear
 There came a voice that whispered clear,
 "Pause, hypocrite, before you pray;
 Who have you tried to bless today?
 God's greatest blessings always go
 By hands that serve Him here below."
 And then I hid my face, and cried,
 "Forgive me, God, for I have lied.
 Let me to see another day,
 And I will live the way I pray."

FOUR GOOD RULES ABOUT SPEECH

Never say about people what you will not say to them. Apply this rule before you say anything harsh or condemnatory.

Perhaps you will still feel it to be your duty to speak, but you will probably change your phraseology. In writing letters about people, it is a good thing to stop and ask, "Would I be willing to have this letter read by the person of whom I am writing?"

Never say evil of anyone of whom you can say something good. "You can't be caught, can you?" said a friend to another who was obeying this rule. "You will persist in seeing some good in everyone." There is some good in everyone, and if we have to talk about persons rather than about principles or events, let us discover the good and speak about it.

Be generous and large-hearted in your soul, and you will speak generously and nobly about others. If we simply try to reform our speech, we shall not succeed. We must first purify the fountain, and then the stream will be pure. When we are filled with love and charity, we shall speak honorably of all men.

Speak in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, that is, in His spirit, as one would speak who stands in His character and represents Him.

Ambassadors speak in the name of their sovereign, and they strive to say only what would be worthy of him. We do or ought to do the same. Would Christ say this? No! Then we must not say it. "He was reviled," and He "reviled not again." Even provocation did not tempt Him to unkindness or bitter words. We are to talk as He talked.—Publisher Unknown.

IN CHINA

The Chinese Ambassador to the United States, C. T. Wang, said recently, "I am proud of the fact that Christ is gaining the heart and sympathy of China. Believe me, that is happening. His footsteps become clearer and clearer in the good earth of China with every passing hour. Once we looked at the handful of Christians on the one hand and the massed millions of China on the other, and said, 'You better go home and forget it.' But the handful stayed. The story of their staying is an epic which makes the defense of Madrid a sham battle. Today the handful is winning."—United Presbyterian.

BY THE BILLION

During the last decade the consumption of cigarettes in the United States has increased from 106 billion to 162 billion a year. Today about sixty per cent of the men and nearly twenty-five per cent of the women are consistent cigarette smokers. The average consumption for men is twenty cigarettes a day, and for women, eleven a day, with each smoker drifting helplessly toward a still larger quota. This habit of smoking, although it appears to many to be a trivial part of living, may be viewed as symbolic of a fundamental trend in modern civilization. That trend is the increasing frequency with which individuals permit themselves to become the creatures of their habits rather than the creators of their environment.—Henry C. Link, in Readers Digest.

FAMILY SIZE

That college graduates do not reproduce themselves from generation to generation was brought out in a recent survey made by a Princeton undergraduate. Graduates who become ministers, however, have the largest families of any other college group. Their families averaged 2.30 children, but even this percentage is small.

Therefore, the ongoing of the human race seems to be dependent upon the non-college population. These statistics show that one thing a college education does is to convince the student that his kind should not be propagated. Many of the uneducated have thought as much but have hesitated to call into question the superior intelligence a diploma is supposed to certify.—Michigan Christian Advocate.

CHRIST AND GANDHI

In The Baptist Times of July 20, 1939, Dr. Clement Chesterman tells the story of his interview with Mr. Gandhi, at the ashram at Segaon. He gave the Indian leader some statistics which may well be quoted again. India has between 1,000,000 and 1,500,000 lepers, and over 600,000 blind, while nearly 1,000,000 people perish yearly from epidemics. Every two and a half minutes a mother dies in childbirth, and a baby cries every fifteen seconds. There are enough doctors and nurses to supply one for each 10,000 people, but ninety per cent. of them are crowded into the towns, where only ten per cent of the people live. "Tell your mission boards," said Mr. Gandhi, "that if medical missionaries will devote themselves to the neglected villages they will not get medals and knighthoods from the British Empire, but they will get a knighthood from Jesus Christ."—Religious Digest.

DO WE RING CLEAR?

Mother, what makes them tap china when you go to buy it?"

"Oh, that is to find if it is sound. If not cracked it rings clear, but if cracked it makes a dull sound."

Just so with the world—they continually sound us who profess to be saved, to find out if we are what we seem to be. Oh, that we could realize the position we are in! The world is ever gazing upon us to try to detect a flaw.—Unknown.

WITNESSING FOR CHRIST

During the last World War I was traveling down from Edinburgh in a rather crowded train. When I had finished and packed up my work the man opposite me put out his hand and said, "How are you, Commissioner?" and I looked at him and said, "Do you know me?"

"I do," he said (he was dressed in a naval uniform). "I am a Salvation soldier. I am just going home on leave, the first I've had."

"Have you good news of God's dealings with you to deliver to the people at home?"

He said, "I have." Then he told me the story. When he arrived on board ship he was conscious that he would have to be out and out for God, otherwise he would have to give up religion altogether. There was very cruel persecution for seven long weeks, but he made up his mind he must confess Jesus Christ and give his testimony, though he be persecuted for it. When he left to go on leave the man who tormented him most of all said, "Will you forgive me?"

The Salvationist said, "Of course; say no more about it."

"I ought not to have persecuted you."

"Well, I forgive you—say no more."

The man looked into his face and said, "Do you think God will?"

"Shall we ask Him?"

It was in the midnight watch, and they knelt on the deck together while the lad prayed for the man. He said to me, "Commissioner, when I left the ship yesterday there were seventeen of us, all zealous of good works."—E. J. Higgins, former General of the Salvation Army.

SEEING THE FATHER'S HAND

So long as we look at second causes, at men or things, as being the origin and source of our sorrows, we shall be filled alternately with burning indignation and hopeless grief. But when we come to understand that nothing can happen to us except as our Father permits, and that, though our trials may originate in some lower source, yet they become God's will for us as soon as they are permitted to reach us through the defense of His envioning presence—then we smile through our tears and kiss the dear Hand that uses another as its rod, and our hearts are at rest.

Judas may seem to mix the cup and put it to our lips; but it is nevertheless the cup which our Father giveth us to drink—and shall we not drink it? Much of the anguish passes away from life's trials as soon as we discern our Father's hand. Then affliction becomes chastening. There is a great difference between the two. Affliction may come from a malignant and unfriendly source; but chastening is the work of the Father, yearning over His children, desiring to eliminate from their characters all that is unlovely and unholy, and to secure in them entire conformity to His character and will.—F. B. Meyer.

In the twelve leading cities of the nation during the first two months of 1940 there was a twenty-five per cent increase in auto deaths. This involves a population of over 18,000,000, and is making police officials and city administrations cognizant of the increasing dangers of auto drivers who insist in drinking alcoholic beverages.—Herald of Holiness.

Since 1928 the number of students attending Roman Catholic colleges in the United States has increased sixty-five per cent. During 1936-38 the increase was twelve per cent.—United Presbyterian.