

Missionary Column

BETHESDA HOSPITAL REPORT

by Dr. S. W. Emmett

I would like to take the opportunity this month to mention some of our hospital needs—not large needs but some that I feel will be of interest to our missionary auxiliaries and church groups. Mrs. Shirley Kierstead is preparing a detailed list of suggestions for missionary boxes to be sent to our auxiliaries but I would like to mention some of the more pressing items. We are greatly in need of hospital clothing. With the ever increasing influx of patients (there are nearly 70 as I am writing) the demand is exceeding the supply that we now have and often we have to ask patients to wear their own clothing while hospital clothing is being laundered. Many of our patients who are well enough, of necessity spend much of the day outside about the hospital grounds; this presents us with a peculiar situation not often seen in our acute hospitals at home and has some bearing upon the type of clothing needed. Briefly, then, we need women's hospital gowns, ages 6 through adult sizes; we would like them to be sack type with belts, loose sleeves, preferably non-white and, of course, of non-sheer material. For the boys and men we need pajamas which may be short-legged, preferably of heavy cotton material, non-white, and of plain color. We need bandage material in the worst way, and every cotton or linen towel and every roll of cotton or gauze bandage received is greatly welcomed.

The second group of needs which I would like to mention are spiritual and from our hearts, we call for earnest intercessory prayer as, of course is needed in every phase of our mission work. First, for our program of evangelism among our patients; we are being presented with a very unique and wonderful opportunity of presenting the Gospel to the people in this large Reserve. Being the only hospital and clinics for 30 and 40 miles respectively on either side of us, we are contacting people from every point who would not otherwise be reached with the Gospel or be inclined to hear or heed the message of salvation. We earnestly desire that every possible opportunity will be exploited to the fullest for the glory of God. This is at times difficult when we are so busy with our medical work and we seek prayer that God will add to the effectiveness of our witness. This brings me to our last request; it is very gratifying to see our patients responding to their treatment, but we are at the front of this battle against disease. There are depressing moments for illness itself is depressing; there is the grave responsibility of patient care; there are the emotional problems accompanying sickness which must be dealt with. Often the burden is heavy and many working hours are spent by our nurses and our African staff, the most of whom are devout Christians. Pray that God will give us wisdom in the direction of the treatment of our patients and that the love of the Master will always be extended to those who are in our care.

THE CREATOR, NOT THE WAITER

You will notice that Jesus did not feed the multitude. He created the food and asked His disciples to distribute it. Jesus was the Creator—not the waiter—at this banquet. Jesus created salvation in His death on the cross. That is the food that will feed the spiritual hunger of this world! But the task of distributing it is in the hands of His followers.—Billy Sunday.

A Spiritual Propellant

By R. G. Flexon in "Pilgrim Holiness Advocate"

In Hebrews 1:7 we read, "Who maketh . . . his ministers a flame of fire." Nothing is more familiar in the physical world to us than fire. It warms our homes, moves our machinery, cooks our meals, balances the elemental forces of the universe, and is as essential to our existence today as water. It revives, it warms, it illuminates, it purifies, it melts, it draws, it repels, it propels, and it spreads. There is also such a thing in the spiritual realm as holy fire.

This verse of scripture does not just mean that He makes his preachers a flame of fire, but his ministers; and there is a difference. As soon as anyone receives the Holy Spirit in His fullness into his heart and life, he begins to minister. Therefore, this verse includes all of God's children, both laymen and ministers, who are filled with his Holy Spirit.

We want to notice a few of the things which fire will do.

First, we notice it warms. A cold, listless individual or church has no attraction. Fire, warmth, and enthusiasm draw.

We are living in an age which is seeking to rob religion of its fiery touch. Any sign of emotion is distressing to some. I do not plead for, nor do I have place for religious emotion that leaves man in the same place it found him. I fear emotion without commensurate promotion of the cause of Christ as much as I fear a deadly rattlesnake. Such can lead into fanaticism and at times is the forerunner of immorality. On the other hand, stiff, stale, starchy, cold, formal, mechanical, barren intellectualism is as deadly to a church as rampant, brainless emotionalism. Holiness with its love, peace, and heavenly joy is found between these two extremes. In fact, truth, or the blessing of God, is not found in extremes but between them.

Second, we notice fire propels. Pentecost not only brought emotion but a promotion which sent both the apostles and laymen "everywhere preaching the Word." From that day on we never find Peter warming himself by another's fire, but we find him scattering holy fire.

John Wesley said, "Give me one hundred men who fear nothing but sin and desire nothing but God, and I care not a straw whether they be clergymen or laymen. Such alone will shake the gates of hell."

A laymen on fire for God with a testimony of the reality of a healed man will do more to make Christ known to the world than all other methods put together. That is the spark which passes the flame from warm hearts to cold hearts. It represents an unanswerable argument. It confounds critics and confuses the enemy. Men may refute our arguments, mock at our theology, and reject our preaching; but they cannot stop the ongoing influence of our testimony to the saving grace of God.

Immediately after Pentecost, the rulers argued with the disciples. They beat them, they condemned them, they slandered them, they scourged them, they put them in jail. But they could not stop that influence which emanated from the fact that before the world stood the demoniac, clothed and in his right mind; the lame man shouting at the beautiful gate of the temple and leaping for joy; a Mary Magdalene transformed from the worst of women to stand among the purest of them; a man born dumb speaking fluently; a man born blind crying, "Whereas I was blind, now I see"; and joyous fishermen just released from jail when told to cease speaking in the name of Christ, saying, "We cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard." They had something within them

The King's Highway