

A Tribute to Miss Elma Spear, R.N., B.N.



That God may be glorified and those who read these lines edified (especially the young people), I would like to pay tribute to the memory of Miss Elma Spear.

Elma was a graduate of Moncton High School and the University of New Brunswick, being a member of the first class graduated from U. N. B. with the Bachelor of Nursing degree. During the past year she has been doing post graduate work at Hotel Dieu Hospital and the University of Moncton.

A young woman of sterling character, radiant personality, and deep Christian devotion, Elma had a remarkable witness among peoples of different nationalities, faiths, and social levels. We did not realize until after her death the tremendous impact her life was making on those with whom she associated in the schools, hospitals, churches, and the community.

As soon as the announcement of the untimely passing of this promising girl was made, tributes began to come in. They literally piled up during the hours and days preceding the funeral. Telegrams, letters, floral and memorial tributes, and a host of personal visitors to the Funeral Home, gave evidence to an influence quite amazing for a person who had not reached her twenty-second birthday.

The funeral service for this young lady was unique in my experience of thirty years in the ministry. The church was filled to capacity, the choir loft, sanctuary, mourners' room, and basement assembly room. Every available pew and chair was filled, and a number of people were standing. More significant than the number present, was the representative character of the company. In the service were a Jewish rabbi, a Catholic priest, a Chinese college professor, a Jewish college professor, officials from two universities and three hospitals, twenty-five French speaking nurses, a number of Protestant ministers, an Indian couple who had driven fifty miles to be present, and many others. It was a most unusual experience to witness the Jewish, Roman Catholic, and Protestant faiths represented in one service, all gathered to pay their respects to this youthful girl.

Elma Spear has proven in life and death that a young person can be motivated by all the impulses that are normal to youth and still have a powerful witness for good and the glory of God. She was zestful, happy, ambitious, and successful, but her life was governed by the highest standards of virtue and uprightness. Steadfastly true to the Lord Whom she loved, and the profession to

MYTHS ABOUT LEPROSY SCORED BY MISSION LEADER

New York (CNS). —Myths have always been formidable barriers to the understanding of leprosy, Dr. O. W. Hasselblad, pres., American Leprosy Missions, told the Christian Medical conference here recently.

Dr. Hasselblad pointed first to the traditional myths —leprosy is unclean, a punishment for evil, highly contagious, inherited, etc. Though still believed by some people, they have been quite successfully dissipated, he said. "The real danger lies in the present-day myths that are rapidly taking the place of the old ones," he declared.

One harmful new myth is the belief that the problem of leprosy has been solved he, said. "Actually, in many countries of the world today leprosy is one of the major public health problems," he pointed out. "This is especially true in Africa, which has about half the total world incidence."

In Africa, he said, many public health specialists see leprosy as "one of the biggest and most complex of the many problems confronting the medical services in Africa today."

Another misleading myth is that the sulfone drugs are the answer to leprosy, and all we have to do is hand out enough pills, Dr. Hasselblad said.

"The sad truth is that despite their effectiveness, the sulfones are not the perfect answer. Action of the drug is slow. It may initiate or prolong leprosy reaction. It may cause undesirable side effects. The search is still on for a better remedy."

LOVE IS COSTLY

She was lying on the ground. In her arms she held a tiny baby girl. As I put a cooked sweet potato into her outstretched hand, I wondered if she would live until morning. Her strength was almost gone, but her tired eyes acknowledged my gift. The sweet potato could help so little—but it was all I had. There was famine in inland China.

Taking a bite she chewed it carefully. Then, placing her mouth over her baby's mouth, she forced the soft warm food into the tiny throat. Although the mother was starving, she used the entire potato to keep her baby alive.

Exhausted from her efforts, she dropped her head on the ground and closed her eyes. In a few minutes the baby was asleep. I later learned that during the night the mother's heart stopped, but her little girl lived.

Love is a costly thing.

—Dick Hillis

OUR PROBLEM IS ALCOHOL

Don't let anyone fool you — our problem is not alcoholism, but alcohol. One is the result, the other the cause. State governments will not, maybe cannot, spend a cent to fight alcohol but are spending millions to cure alcoholism. You see, nobody is defending alcoholism, but industry and governments alike are defending alcohol — and promoting — alcohol, the sole cause of alcoholism. Make sense of that if you can.

—Forward

which she had dedicated herself, she won the admiration, respect, and love of a host of people of all ages, social standing, and religious beliefs.

May the shining example of this devoted Christian girl challenge and inspire a host of young people to "give of their best to the Master".

by REV. B. C. COCHRANE, MONCTON, N. B.