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There is a Growing Revival of Faith in Christian Healing

Church Notes

THE tremendous advances in medicine and surgery during the twentieth century have been accompanied by a revival of interest in the art and ministry of Christian healing. It is clear from the New Testament and early church history that the exercise of the healing ministry was a regular and recognised part of the life and work of the early church. During the whole period of the church's existence there have been small and isolated groups that have practised Christian healing in one form or another but it has been outside of the church and away from the general practice of the church.

In these days, however, there are many groups within the church and a few outside who claim to continue this ministry. The most powerful group within the church is the interdenominational group known as the Churches of Christ.

Free thinkers working under the influence of departed spirits. Harry Edwards of Shere who was visiting Horsham claims that he is working in the power given him by Lister and Pasteur with whose spirits he is in touch.

Many who gathered their initial inspiration within the church have left it to join the Christian Scientists who follow the teaching of that strange enigmatic figure Mary Baker Eddy whose book, "Science and Health, a Key to the Scriptures" is used as a textbook at every service. Christian Scientists refuse the assistance of doctors and physicians and rely solely on the ministry of the practitioners who exercise a spiritual ministry in time of sickness.

This growth of interest and activity is evidence of a widespread belief in non-medical and non-surgical methods of healing and undoubtedly many people can bear sincere testimony to the help they have received from healers. Many converts to the faith have been made in the "Methodist Recorder" have taken him to task for this. He has now replied in an article in which he makes clear that the supreme aim of healing services should be the spiritual well-being of the worshipper with God. Whoever attends a Methodist service of healing should be prepared to hear the minister and have the consent of his doctor. The celebrant at the service should be a qualified medical practitioner and the doctor's diagnosis and understanding the patient's condition. Such a service is not a sign of the dedication of the patient in an act of surrender to God in "loving trust" and recovery be attained or not. The end of the service would be the glory of God and the patient's attempt to get well.

Dr. Weatherhead points out how many have been disappointed and disillusioned after services in which there have been extravagant claims to healing which have not been sustained in subsequent experience.

It would seem that the church's duty is clear. We are called to pray without ceasing, and to use such spiritual, physical and medical resources as God makes available to us according to the measure of faith. The emphasis must be on God and His power and love rather than on men. We have no right to deny that cures are effected by the power of God in the means described above, nor have the right to say that cures wrought by the deity rested skill and abundance of modern medical and surgical experts are less Christian than those wrought by non-medical and non-surgical means. God can answer the prayers of his people through all these channels. Let us therefore pray without ceasing and use all the resources at our disposal for the healing of suffering humanity.

Moral Welfare Association

THE Horsham Denary committee of the Diocesan Moral Welfare Association is arranging a Jumble sale to be held in the Parish Room, the Church, at 3 p.m., on Saturday, September 27th. There will also be a produce stall. Gifts for sale will be warmly welcomed and offers may be sent to Sister Sides, 13, Madeira Avenue, Horsham. It is hoped that this sale will produce a useful sum to help carry on the good work of this association.

British and Foreign Bible Society

THE Horsham and District Auxiliary of the British and Foreign Bible Society are holding their annual meeting on Tuesday, November 11 this year, when the address will be given by the Rev. W. J. Platt, general secretary of the society. Mr. Platt is a very knowledgeable and able speaker and we are fortunate to have been able to book him for the occasion.

Stinford Congregational Church

THE Stinford Congregational Church has been redecorated inside and out and on Thursday, September 11, at 7.30 p.m. there will be a service of thanksgiving and rededication. The preacher will be the Rev. A. J. Newton-Turner, of Bognor Regis, a former minister. A tablet will be unveiled to the memory of Mr. Frank Wade.

Conference in Sweden

FOUR hundred and twenty representatives from many branches of

Services of Healing

Those who attract greatest attention in this connection are the men who hold services of healing, such as Pastor Jeffries and others associated with him. These services are held in the Albert Hall and the Central Hall, London once or twice each year. Amidst great enthusiasm and emotional stress invalids suffering from all kinds of diseases have proclaimed themselves cured.

There are Christian Spiritualists who exercise this ministry and there are spiritualists who do not claim help from Christ but describe themselves as

60 "N.S." MEN TO REGISTER

The number of young men between October 1 and December 31, 1954 who will register at Horsham, Camberley and Epsom tomorrow (Saturday), will be about 60. Not a big number in itself but with similar registrations throughout the country the total from the end of 1946 to April 1st last was 1,475,260.

What happened to all those men? How many have been called up for service in the Armed Forces or have joined as volunteers? The total, up to April 25, 1952, was 916,000; another 108,100 had been found medically unfit for service. In fact, the only men born in 1929 who were not called up as soldiers, some agricultural workers, merchant seamen, and a small number of highly qualified scientists and professional engineers engaged on certain projects of particular importance and urgency in the national interest; these classes were not called up until they reached the age of 26. The number of men concerned was only a small proportion (less than 9 per cent.) of the 11 millions registered.

Large numbers of men, however, have their call deferred and are thus able to continue their advanced studies or apprenticeships, but all are called up, if medically fit, on completion of their studies or training, generally at the age of 21 or 22 instead of at the age of 18. There were nearly 104,000 deferred at April 25, 1952, the great majority of whom were under 21 years of age. Only 5,000 men born in 1929 out of the 300,000 registered in the age group were, at April 25, still deferred to complete their apprenticeships or studies, compared with 10,000 born in 1925.

It is probable that between 25 per cent. and 30 per cent. of the young men who register on Saturday next will apply for deferment of call up to enable them to complete their education or apprenticeship. Such applications should be made when men attend to register or as soon as possible afterwards.

Harvest Festival

CHRISTIAN people everywhere look forward to September as the month of thanksgiving for the harvest. It is not a specifically Christian festival as Easter and Christmas yet it is one of those occasions which draws people to church. We who live in a predominantly rural area know how much we depend upon the soil. We are able to derive new methods of fertilising and cultivating the soil and new methods of harvesting the results but we still rely on the natural processes of germination and growth to produce the harvest. We still need the skilled hand of the agricultural labourer and the farmer who work to till the soil and to reap the results. The notice-boards and magazines give detailed notes of the services in each church. Gifts

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Sussex Wills

Explorer Leaves £7,876

Mr. Frederick William Highmood, of 46, Churchend-road, Worthing, an explorer, Chairman of the British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection in 1950, and a former alderman of both the West Sussex County Council and Worthing Town Council, who died on July 8, aged 79 years, left £7,876 12s. 6d. gross, £7,702 net value. (Duty paid, £184). Probate has been granted to Mrs. Winifred E. Highmood, of 20, Woodhouse-road, Hove, the sole executrix named in the will.

LORD LEONFIELD

A further grant of probate in respect of settled land valued at £1,700,001 on which "estate duty" has been levied at the rate of 10 per cent. on the estate of Rt. Hon. Charles Henry Wyndham, third Viscount Leominster, C.B., of Portworth House, Portworth, and Cockermouth Castle, Cumberland, who died on August 20, 1950, has been granted to Lord Leominster, the chairman of West Sussex County Council and of the Littlehampton Harbour Board, who gave Portworth House to the National Trust in 1947, and who died on April 16, aged 80 years, leaving unvested estate already valued at £238,488, making a total of £2,138,488.

The grant has been issued to Vincent W. Yorks, company director, of 9/15, George-street, Manchester, and to Mr. Col. Everard H. Wyndham, M.C., of Cavendish House, Bicester, Oxford, and Rt. Hon. Victor Alexander, company director, of 10, Upper Belgrave-street, S.W.1.

MR. B. SEVENS

Mr. Benjamin Sevens, of Man-a-More, Maple Avenue, Cooden, Bechill-on-Sea, former secretary of the Sussex Branch of the Royal Artillery Association, who died on March 28, left £22,880 4s. 5d. gross, £22,704 14s. 6d. net value. (Duty paid, £1,472). He left £1,000 and personal chattels to his wife and the residue, including his Indian Estate, on trust for her for life, and then equally to his children, Messrs. Sevens, and John V. Sevens, on attaining the age of 25 years, or their issue. Probate has been granted to Lloyd Bank Ltd., the sole executrix.

MRS. M. DIGNUM MITCHELL

Mrs. Marjorie Mary Dignum-Mitchell (or Mitchell), of 6, Madeira-avenue, Horsham, who died on March 28, 1951, at 44, net value, £2,461 3s. 4d. net value. (Duty paid, £242). Probate has been granted to her brother Frank Elliott, of Beech Cottage, Sutton-lane, Banstead, Surrey, and to Stephen G. Elliott, solicitor, of 8, Holly Hill Drive, Banstead.

MR. G. F. PATTERSON

Mr. George Frederick Patterson, of Little Stanborough, Hampshire, formerly of 10, Park Parade, Bournemouth, who died on May 3, left £4,224 15s. 8d. net value, £4,178, net value. (Duty paid, £500). Probate has been granted to his widow Mrs. Alice C. Patterson, of the same address, the sole executrix.

MR. F. PATTERSON

Mr. Frank Patterson, of Pear Tree Farm, Billingshurst, who died on July 1 last, left £2,000 on 104 gross, £2,010 5s. 10d. net value. (Duty paid, £128). Probate has been granted to his widow Mrs. Anne Patterson, of the same address, the sole executrix.

Court Sequel to Accident

Two charges, one of failing to stop after an accident and another of failing to report an accident, were dismissed by the Horsham Magistrate on Tuesday when Ronald Ambrose Shaw, a motor cyclist, of Northampton, was before the court. He pleaded not guilty to both offences. Robert Thomas Miller said that on June 10 he parked his van outside a cafe in High-street, Crawley, and while he was inside he heard a crash. He found that the head plate of the van had been smashed.

Patrick Hosack said he saw a black saloon car come out of Station-road into a line of traffic, and in attempting to avoid a lorry it struck a stationary car and went on without stopping. He took a note of the car's number and reported the incident to the police.

The lorry driver, Leslie car "locked" with the van, and after backing it drove away.

When he interviewed Shaw he said that Shaw told him: "I knew I had cut it pretty fine, but I was not aware there had been an accident." He invited the police officer to inspect his car and they found only slight scratches on the wing.

Shaw on oath, said that the van had been damaged by a lorry or children and that they were not in the right position to judge of the van's lorry.

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