

## THE SOWER

A Weekly Department of Religious and Secular Thought Contributed by REV. JAMES A. TURNER, Pastor, M. E. Church, Patton, Pa.

### A FATHER WHO GIVETH GOOD THINGS.

"Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you; for every one that taketh, receiveth; and he that seeketh, findeth; and to him that knocketh, it shall be opened. What man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven, give good things to them that ask Him?"

This is the wonderful passage in which Jesus enunciates the primary truth of the Fatherhood of God. This truth may be called primary because it is the foundation stone upon which the whole structure of true religion is

built. Until men could understand the meaning of the Fatherhood of God, and something of what it implies, they could hardly obtain any satisfactory religious experience.

As long as men had believed that there were many gods, a sound religious experience was not possible, for all genuine religious union with the One. Many gods must necessarily be gods of limitation; and as they were always and necessarily, represented as being in conflict among themselves, only chaotic thought could follow from such a belief.

Those who had got beyond that idea to the concept of the One or True God, still thought of Him almost universally as a kind of Oriental tyrant-king or Sultan, owning and governing man with a rod of iron, on much the same lines that a capricious human tyrant might be expected to pursue. The God of many of the Old Testament writers is a very jealous, revengeful, and cruel despot; a sultan whom it is almost impossible to please, implacable in his anger, often indiscriminate in His vengeance. He seems to have more in common with mankind than men have with the animals; in fact much less, for we conceive ourselves to

share many of the lowest creatures' limitations in a common susceptibility to suffering and hunger and death. This Oriental-sultan view of God was actually the view held by very many earnest orthodox Christians down to very recent times, be it remembered, and it denied to man anything in common with God at all.

In the above scriptural passage, says Dr. Emmert Fox, Jesus once and for all lays the axe to the root of this horrible superstition for those who will read their Bible with an open mind. He says here, definitely and clearly—and He stresses his words in the most circumstantial way—that the real relationship of God and man is that of parent and child.

Here God ceases to be the distant potentate who deals with grovelling slaves, and becomes the loving Father of us, His children. It is extremely difficult to realize the far reaching importance that this declaration holds for the life of the soul. If you will read and re-read this section dealing with the Fatherhood of God every day for a few weeks, you will find that it alone answers a great many of your religious problems. I venture to say that you will be considerably surprised at the large number of puzzling questions that it will settle once and for all.

The teaching of Jesus concerning the Fatherhood of God was original and unique. In the Old Testament God was never addressed as "Father." Where references to His Fatherhood are made He is referred to as the Father of the nation, and not of individuals. Indeed this was the reason why Jesus made the declaration of the Fatherhood of God the opening clause of what we call the "Lord's Prayer." It explains, for instance, the tremendous statement in Genesis that man is the image and likeness of God.

It is axiomatic, of course, that the offspring must be of the same nature and species as the parent; and so if God and man are indeed Father and child, man—notwithstanding all his present limitations, and despite all appearances to the contrary—must be essentially divine too, and susceptible of infinite growth and improvement and development up the rising pathway of divinity.

That is to say, as man's true nature—his spiritual character—unfolds, which means as he becomes more and more conscious of it, he will expand in spiritual consciousness until he has transcended all bounds of human imagination; onward, and yet onward still. It is in reference to this, our glorious destiny, that as we have already seen, Jesus Himself says elsewhere, quoting the older scriptures "I have said ye are gods, and all of you sons of the Most High." He then emphasized His point by adding significantly: "And the scripture cannot be broken."

So, in this passage we are set free once and for all from the last link in the last chain that binds us to a limited and degraded destiny. We are the children of God; and if children, then sons, and joint heirs with Jesus Christ, as Paul says; and as sons of God we are the heirs of our Father's estate, not strangers, or paid servants, much less chattel slaves. We are sons of the house and will one day enjoy our inheritance. At the present time we find ourselves full of limitations and disabilities because we are spiritually but children—minors. Children are irresponsible, lacking in wisdom and experience, and have to be kept under control lest their mistakes should entail serious consequences to themselves.

But as soon as man comes of age spiritually, then, as we have seen above, he claims his rights and obtains them. "The heir as long as he is a child differeth nothing from a servant, though he be Lord of all, but is under tutors and governors"; but when the fullness of time is come, he awakens to the Truth and obtains his spiritual majority.

He realizes that it is the Voice of God Himself that is in his heart, making him cry: "Father." Then at least he knows that he is the son of a great King, and that all that his Father has is his for the using, whether it be health, or supply, or opportunity, or beauty, or joy, or any other of the thoughts of God.

### ARE DOCTORS KEEPING UP WITH THE INCREASING AGE OF THEIR PATIENT GROUP?

Are doctors keeping up with the increasing age of their patients?

This question was presented before the 89th annual session of the Medical Society of the State of Pennsylvania at Pittsburgh last week.

Geriatrics is the name for the study of conditions of those growing old. The word encompasses not only the normal conditions but also the diseases, their diagnoses and treatment, as found in older patients.

The population is aging due to falling birth rate, lessening of infant deaths and an increase in the number of persons reaching adulthood.

Many persons 60 years of age are certainly in good health. But, on the average, in this number of years of living, the body has undergone changes which will influence the remaining years.

Older persons have problems of health quite as specific for them as are the problems of infancy and adolescence.

In the older body the reaction to disease is different and the symptoms expressive of this reaction, must be different.

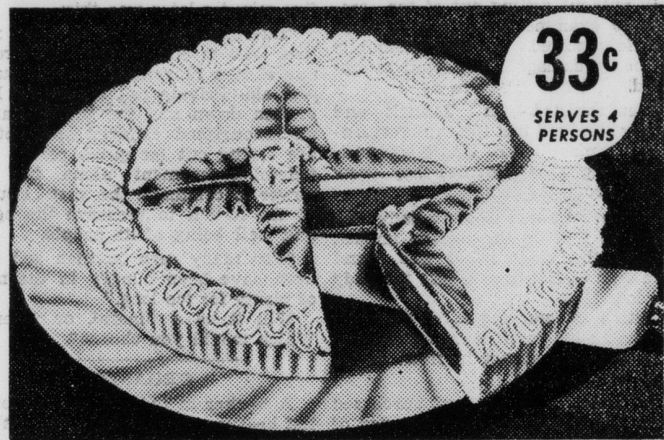
The older body is different, hence the signs in normal conditions and in disease states are changed.

Treatment must fit this changed and differently reacting older body.

The older patient has a physical apparatus that has been changed by his activities, his previous illnesses and individual characteristics.

The familiar sequence of changes with age may be regarded as normal because of the universal occurrence.

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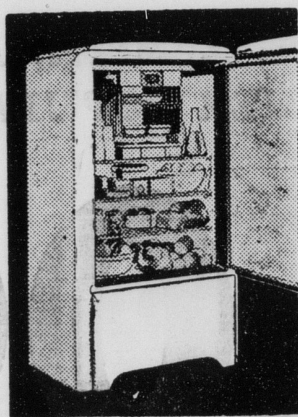
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BANNER DAY COFFEE, 3 pound bag ..... 37c  
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 TUNA FISH FLAKES, Fancy quality, 2 6 ½ oz. cans ..... 25c  
 LONG SHREDDED SAUER KRAUT, 2 Large Cans ..... 15c

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**Hams** Large, Lean Skinned Shk ends, up to 10 lbs **19c** Whole or End Butts, lb **21c** Center Cut Slices, lb. **39c**

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FRESHLY GROUND LEAN BEEF lb. .... 17c  
 FOUNTAIN SMOKED PICNICS, small sht. shank, lb. 19½c  
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**Fancy Fresh Fruits and Vegetables**

**TOKAY GRAPES** Fancy Large Cluster Bunches LB. **5c**

**Quality Yellow Sweet Potatoes, 10 lbs. 19c**

**CELERY** Crisp, Tender, Fresh, Well Bleached Large Stalk ..... **5c** 3 Medium STALKS **10c**

**APPLES** Winter Bananas, Smoke-house or Jonathans, 8 Lbs. **19c**  
**Fancy Yellow Onions** 10 LB. bag **21c**  
**Golden Ripe Bananas, lb. 5c**  
**Sweet Spanish Onions, lb. 5c**

The old body works according to standards of its own different from the generally established levels.

The physician of today must familiarize himself with the geriatric phases due to the shifting character of the population.

The old body has surprising powers.

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### WEST VIRGINIA LEADS STATES IN BITUMINOUS COAL PRODUCTION

West Virginia in 1938 again led the nation in the mining of bituminous coal, producing nearly 27 per cent of the grand total. This is shown by the "Bituminous Coal Tables for 1937 and 1938" released the other day by the Bituminous Coal Division of the Department of the Interior.

The state produced 92,922,000 tons of the nation's grand total of 344,630,000

according to the preliminary statistics for 1938.

Pennsylvania, which in 1931 lost its lead to West Virginia as the greatest bituminous coal producer, still ranked second with 77,040,000 tons or about 22 per cent of the national total. Pennsylvania's production of 46,099,000 tons of anthracite during the year, however, places it in the lead as the producer of all kinds of coal.

Illinois ranked third with 40,650,000 tons or nearly 12 per cent. Kentucky followed with 38,496,000 tons, or a little more than 11 per cent.