

MIRROR MEDITATION

By EMMITT L. BRINSON

Sometime ago I had the privilege of listening to a panel discussion regarding the dignity of death. How far should medical science go in preventing its occurrence? How far should they go in keeping a person alive?

This panel included, among others, three men of letters. A philosopher, a religionist, and a scientist. Some of the depth of discussion left many including myself still in a state of doubt and confusion. There was yet a lot to be desired.

Their conclusion seemed to reach only an answer that after all, there is not enough to build to after an

incurable illness has reached a point of no return. At this point, a person should be left alone to die with dignity, instead of spending fortunes for them to suffer and remain alive.

To me it goes deeper than just the personal or mercenary opinion. While I have not concluded anything I feel that it all hinges on the word "life" or what being "alive" means. In deeper meditation there are many things to be considered. It has been conceded by most that man's mind and awareness, is his soul. It is that part or entity of God that shall never die. The brain is material. Thought, mind, awareness, is spirit. It goes on forever still a part of the Creator.

I therefore project these thoughts for you to ponder: Without mind the reflexes or intricate mechanisms of our body are controlled indirectly, for a time at

least, by the body's perpetual creative design. It is but a mass of machinery without purpose, reason, or soul. If a person still has a mind or awareness, it has a will or desire of its own. As long as thought patterns are still there, every effort should be made to keep a person alive, regardless of the conditions of the body. It is still a "person", and God is still there. There is yet a chance God and mind, which are one, will perform a miracle. Without mind or awareness, and the diagnosis proves the brain is damaged beyond the creative processes of repair, God has already removed spirit and soul, and anything medical science may do, mind, awareness and soul will not return. They have recreated a monster, and it should be allowed to follow the creative laws of deterioration and die.

Once a person is dead, and is revived by modern machinery or medical science, and the brain is damaged, case histories prove that with this kind of "life" awareness does not return. All that science has on their hands is a stupid mass of flesh machinery without soul. Their act of keeping it alive as well as the result is inhuman.

This also brings up the controversy of mercy deaths argued by many. When a part of the mind and awareness is still there the question arises as to how long will this machinery perpetuate in working order. Reports show it will live for a normal lifetime.

When the conscious mind alone

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Clark Gable, in his memorable role of Rhett Butler, and Vivien Leigh as Scarlett O'Hara in David O. Selznick's production of "Gone with the Wind." One of the great motion pictures of all time, the screen version of Margaret Mitchell's famous novel is presented by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer in tribute to the Year of the Civil War Centennial.

is not working and the sub-conscious is working, it steers the functions of the body. Usually the conscious mind is in a state of suspension which could be caused by many reasons. Then it seems the patient is merely sick and science can help the conscious mind to again function, restoring the person to normalcy.

If the conscious and subconscious mind are both gone and the brain is not there, here again the soul and God have departed. Man has some argument as to what he should or should not do.

This still leaves a lot to be understood, and anxiety sets in regarding mentally retarded people. Here, awareness seems to be only part time. It comes and goes. It appears the mind and soul are trying desperately to break through. It still has meaning and purpose. With the help of medical science and the help of God to produce that miracle a normal person and a life will come forth and flower to proper awareness. Science should strive earnestly for new knowledge in this field.

Another trying question arises here: Why would God allow such to happen to innocent people? Here, Christ gave an answer: When asked the same question as to whose fault the affliction might be when cause was unknown. John 9:3—"Neither has this man sinned, nor his parents, but that the works of God might be made manifest in him."

What a major challenge to Sci-

ence and Religion!! It is almost as if we hear God crying out to mankind, "Use your talents that might be tapped through me to revive normal processes endowed in my creation of man. That his body and mind might follow its creative process. Through some material quirk the workings of the molecules, which has no mind, but follow a pre-set pattern, has been blocked. It has erred. Help them find their way."

Yet, when some things are beyond the comprehension of mere man and God does not show the way it should be left to Him. His creative designs will take their own course. Take it to Him in honest prayer. It will bring an answer.

Sometimes it happens in many ways. Have you ever had a loved one who is gone, that is, so far as mind and awareness are concerned. It is more than the heart and emotions can stand to see them cared for like animals. How many times have you heard, "It is a blessing that God took them" when they passed on. God had already taken the real person and later, the creative processes removed its shell.

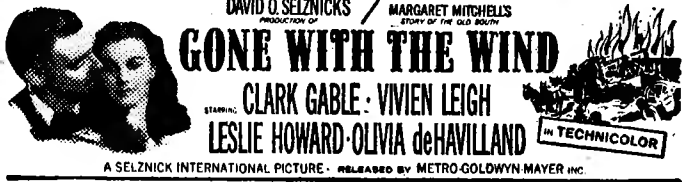
It appears the key word is "life." The state of being alive. Mind! Awareness! Soul! When this is present, God is crying to Science and Religion—Help them! Help them! And dedicated people should rise to this major challenge. All other areas should be left to God. Man should not play God—nor should he play with God. This I can conclude.

When we envy another, we make their virtue our vice. — Boileau

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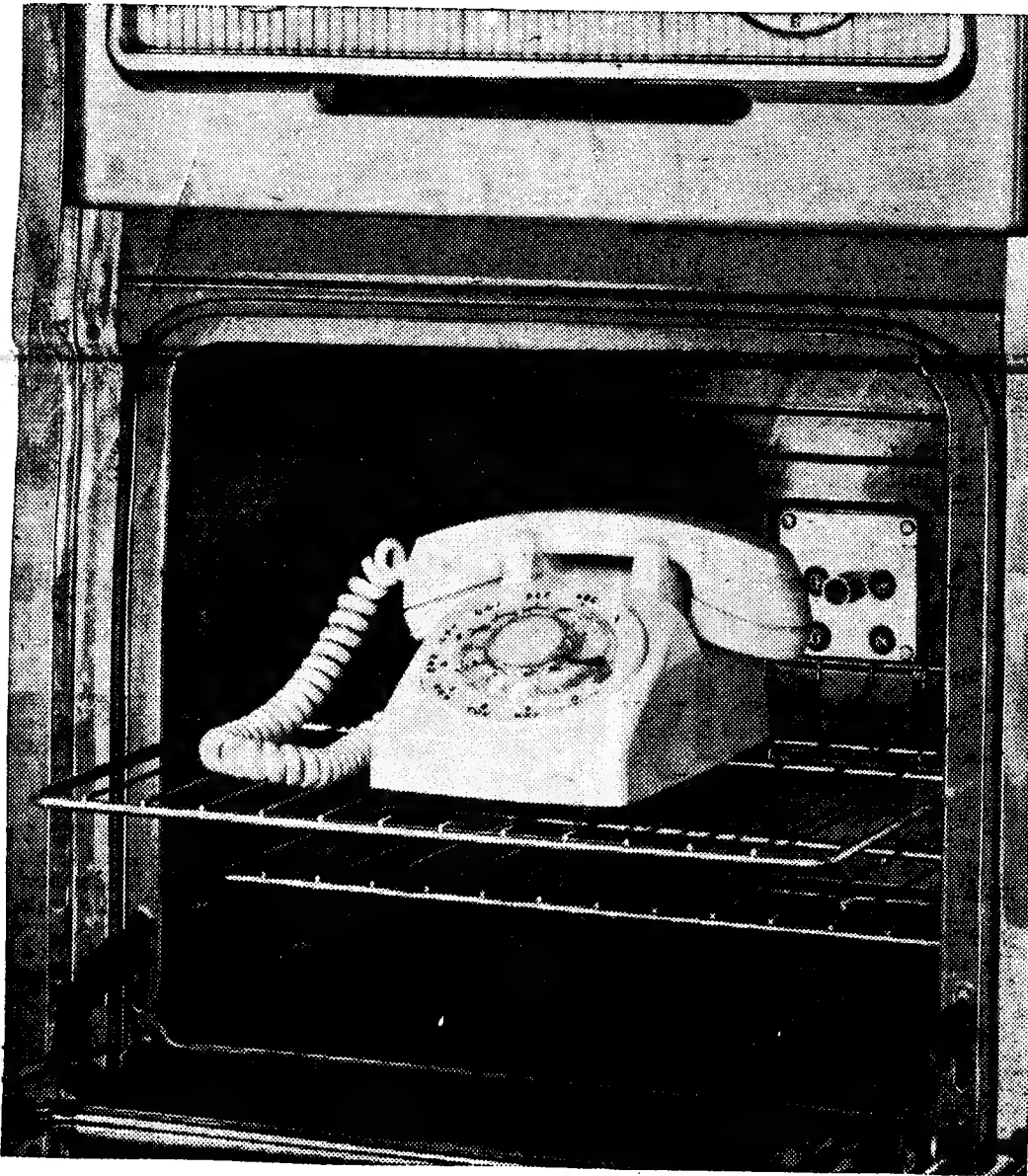
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NOTICE TO VOTERS

— OF —

CITY OF NEW BERN

For Regular City Election and Special Vote
On Bonds for Sewerage Treatment System
May 2nd, 1961

The following is a list of Registrars and polling places for the several wards of the City of New Bern. The Registrars will be at the respective polling places between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. on the following days only, for the purpose of registering qualified voters:

SATURDAY, APRIL 1st
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5th
SATURDAY, APRIL 8th
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12th
SATURDAY, APRIL 15th

Ward	Registrar	Polling Place
First	Mrs. L. G. Pate	Broad Street Fire Station
Second	Mrs. F. H. Shipp, Sr.	Recreation Bldg., George St.
Third	Mrs. B. G. Harker	Fort Totten Fire Station
Fourth	Mrs. J. G. White	High School (Gymnasium)
Fifth	Mrs. J. W. Hammond	National Ave. Fire Station

This is NOT a new registration. There is NOT a special registration for the vote on bonds for sewerage treatment system. Challenges will be received at the above polling places not later than 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 22nd.

Voters who have moved their residence from one ward to another are reminded that, to be eligible to vote, they must go to the Registrar of the new ward, execute a transfer certificate, and register in the new ward.

Candidates for office must file with the City Clerk not later than 4:30 p.m. on April 18th.

H. E. RUSSELL, City Clerk.