

## THE SLEEPING SICKNESS WHICH MEANS DEATH.

How many readers have heard of this terrible disease? It prevails in that far-away country—Africa—especially the Congo district. It is caused by the bite of the tsetse fly. When it bites a person, the sleeping symptoms begin and finally the sufferer sleeps until death occurs.

Contrast this with the peaceful, balmy sleep of health. Is there anything more wearing than to lie awake at night, tossing about, nervous, with cold feet, hot head and weary knees what else? Short of letting the tsetse fly bite us we would do almost anything for relief. How can we prevent it? Mr. George Hayes, of Union City, Pa., writes: "I had lost my appetite, was all run-down, could not sleep nights. I had tried everything without relief. Vinol was recommended, and to my surprise, it helped me at once; gave me a splendid appetite, and now I sleep soundly."

What Vinol did for Mr. Hayes, it will do for every run-down, nervous and overworked person who cannot sleep.

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## THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

Lesson III.—Second Quarter, For April 18, 1909.

### THE INTERNATIONAL SERIES.

Text of the Lesson, Acts ix, 1-30  
Memory Verses 15, 16—Golden Text  
Acts ix, 4—Commentary Prepared by Rev. D. M. Stearns.

(Copyright, 1909, by American Press Association.)  
When the Holy Spirit records anything several times He must desire to call special attention to it, as we suggested in a recent lesson. He must therefore intend that we give heed to the account of Saul's conversion, recorded in this lesson and in chapters xxii and xxvi, and also to Paul's statements elsewhere concerning it, as in Gal. i, 13-17; I Tim. i, 11-17. This chosen vessel (verse 15) was permitted to blindly go his own way till the time came, which God had always foreseen, to stop him and turn him about in the right direction. Let all those who are pleading with God for wayward sons or daughters, husbands or wives or possibly for parents be encouraged by this wonderful manifestation of the grace of God, and may they hear the Spirit saying, "Thy prayer is heard" (Luke i, 13; Acts x, 31; I John v, 14, 15), and then patiently but expectantly await God's time to make manifest the answer. Could there possibly be a seemingly more hopeless case than this one? And yet see how wondrously God wrought when His time came. Notwithstanding the triumphant death of Stephen and all that Saul must have heard and seen at that time he still continued his murderous career and was on his way to Damascus in the same spirit when suddenly from being a persecutor of Jesus he became His most devoted bond slave and faithful witness. He saw the risen and ascended Jesus (verse 17) as truly as Stephen did; he heard himself addressed by name in that double form by which the Lord addressed Abraham and Moses and Samuel; he was convinced of his great sin and, with true penitence, cried, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?"

Soon it was reported everywhere "that he who persecuted us in times past now preacheth the faith which once he destroyed" (Gal. i, 23). The light from heaven was a great light above the brightness of the sun, and Paul said, "I could not see for the glory of that light." What blessed blindness, a sight of Jesus making us blind to all else! May it ever be so with us, blind and deaf to all but the face and voice of Jesus. The Lord's question, "Why persecutest thou Me?" was in the Hebrew tongue, for which there must have been some reason. Was it because Saul prided himself on being "an Hebrew of the Hebrews?" (Phil. iii, 5). Our Lord's reply to Saul's "Who art thou, Lord?" was, "I am Jesus of Nazareth whom thou persecutest," the name that Saul had so hated and that so many proud Jews hate to this day. When Saul saw the hated one as the Lord of Glory his mouth was forever shut concerning himself and his previous good opinion of himself, and from that day he was ready to die for Him in whose righteousness alone he now rejoiced (Phil. iii, 8, 9). The humbled man was three days without sight or food or drink (verse 9). He was led by the hand into Damascus and must have had a never to be forgotten experience in the revelation of his Lord and of himself which came to him those days. Unless we can truly say from the heart Rom. vii, 18, we need to see more clearly the beauty of the Lord until the constant utterance of our heart becomes "Not I, but Christ," "Not I, but the grace of God" (Gal. ii, 20; I Cor. xv, 10). It is refreshing to meet in this record a good man named Ananias, for the other one of chapter v so dishonored the name that to this day it is a rare thing to find a man of that name. It is so much more easy to smirch a name than to redeem it. How careful we should be not to dishonor or bring reproach upon that worthy and beautiful name by which we are called, the name of Jesus Christ our Lord (Jas. ii, 7).

Let us also remember that all ill treatment of those who bear that name means to Him ill treatment of Himself, even as He taught when here in His humiliation, "He that despiseth you despiseth me" (Luke x, 16). How honored this Ananias was to be the Lord's messenger to Saul with such a message, "Receive thy sight and be filled with the Holy Ghost!" Andrew was greatly honored to be permitted to bring his brother Simon, as we think of the 3,000 who came through Simon Peter at Pentecost, but think of what God wrought through Saul. If the humble man who emphasized to the young stranger in the congregation that stormy morning that he never would be happy till he "looked and lived" had never led another soul to Christ than C. H. Spurgeon, would he not have been honored beyond measure?

A chosen vessel to bear His name before gentiles and kings and the children of Israel, to know His will and see Him and hear His voice and be His witness, to open people's eyes and turn them from darkness to light and from the power of Satan unto God that they might receive forgiveness of sins and eternal inheritance—what an honor, what a commission! These words were spoken to Saul, but written for us if we are willing to be vessels for His use. Many are called, but few are chosen, not because He wants only a few, but because so few are willing to be His choice ones—chosen to suffer as well as to minister.

## Put This Stove in Your Kitchen

It is wonderfully convenient to do kitchen work on a stove that's ready at the instant wanted, and out of the way the moment you're done. Such a stove is the New Perfection Wick Blue Flame Oil Cook-Stove. By using it you avoid the continuous overpowering heat of a coal fire and cook with comfort, even in dog-days The



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Cash on hand, 156,791.00	Certified checks, 11.40
<b>Total, \$639,904.20</b>	<b>Total, \$639,904.20</b>

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