

PRAYER Almost the whole population of a little New England village met in the old white-painted church one night last week to pray for the life of a little boy. Our doctor's sevenyear-old son had been five weeks in the hospital at the county seat.

Word had come that the specialists had given up hope.

"Can't anything be done?" someone asked. "The child is in the hands of God," was all the doctor could say. "Then let's try God," said Mr. White, the minister.

Ora Dubois, at the telephone exchange, called up everybody on the farmers' lines. "Come to the church tonight, to pray for Billy Persing!" By word of mouth the call ran through the village. That night the church was crowded, and no more fervent prayers ever rose to the Throne of Grace than went up from that little country town.

Next morning good news came from the hospital. The boy seemed better. Next day they said he had a chance. The third day, a decided improvement. Another day-out of danger!

Do our New England folk still believe in the power of prayer? We hear much of the decline of the ancient faith of our fathers. It is still a living force, up here in Berkshire.

FAITH today
I know a surprisingly large number of people who tell me that they have found courage to face the economic disasters that have befallen them, and peace of mind such as they have never known in prosperous times, through a renewal of their faith in Divine Providence. Not only are the congregations larger in the churches of all sects, but non-sectarian groups and cults are drawing greater numbers to hear the simple Gospel mes-

I saw hundreds turned away for lack of room, not long ago, at one of the tri-weekly religious meetings in the grand ballroom of one of New York's largest hotels. I know one woman who draws hundreds to hear her "inspirational" talks on Friday afternoons.

These people are seeking help to adjust their minds and spirits to the realities of life. Many of them are succeeding, and they are the only really happy people I know.

YOUTH experience Whenever I hear someone declaring that there is one sure way to set everything right, my first inquiry is: "How old are you?" The surer he is that he has discovered the panacea, the younger he is likely to turn out to be.

As one gets older, he is not so sure that the world needs a complete remodelling, nor that it would be the better for being "done over," even if that were possible.

I am constantly being reminded of a remark of Dr. Benjamin Jowett, the famous "Master of Balliol," to one of his graduating classes at Oxford.

"Even the youngest of you," he said, "is not infallible!"

POLITICS this fall The Presidential Campaign of 1936 is already under way. The preliminary skirmishes will be at the "odd-year" elections this Fall. On the outcome of such village, town and county elections the na-

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tional elections may possibly hinge next year. All other things being equal, the party that has the best and most far-reaching organization stands the better chance of victory. Party organization must begin at the grass-roots. The party with the most men in local public offices has the strongest organization.

The odds are always with the ins." It always takes a pretty deep and widespread change in public sentiment to oust whichever party happens to control the jobs.

QUALITY or price? Mario Raspuzzi was cutting the hay on my lower meadow the other day, when the tongue of the mower broke off. The oak shaft had rotted at the bolt-holes. I called up the hardware store in Great Barrington, eight miles away, and found they had a tongue in stock for that make of machine, already bored for the bolts.

When Mario brought back the new tongue, however, instead of being oak-or ash, which is betterit proved to be just a stick of Ore-

"That's all they're making 'em of now," the dealer explained, when I 'squawked" over the telephone. "Quality doesn't count any moreonly price, Farmers want cheap goods-and I'm telling you, they're getting 'em! That tongue'll last you two-three years, anyway."

The old one had seen 20 years of service.

I've been wondering ever since, whether most of the goods we buy these days aren't in the same class as that new mower-tongue-made to sell cheap and wear out quickly.

Billiards Ancient Game

to have been played before the rate for all ages is about 11 per Christian era.

Washington Cools Off



WASHINGTON . . . A summernight's view of the terrace fountain on the Capitol Plaza where Washingtonians try to find relief from the sweltering heat during the summer months.

Average Death Rate

Seventy out of every 1,000 individuals under one year of age die yearly, 6 out of 1,000 individuals from one to four years die yearly, but between the ages of ten and fourteen, of these about 1.5 individ-The game of billiards is known uals die yearly. The average death 1,000 per year.

World War Dueft Registration

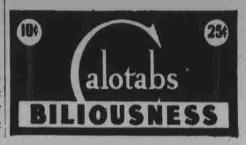
The first registration on June 5, 1917, was for men between the ages of twenty-one and thirty, inclusive. The second, on June 5, 1918, was for those who had turned twentyone after the first registration. The third, August 24, 1918, was for all those between the ages of eighteen and forty-five inclusive, who had not registered on the previous occasions.

Early Romans' Ways

In times of depression, the Romans, following the example of other ancient nations, reduced the amount of gold and silver in their coins without lowering the face

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