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EDITORIAL

MY JOB

By Barbara McGiboney, Twelfth grade D. O. student

I am a librarian assistant on the D. O. Program at Dudley High School. As you will later note, my work is connected with almost every other job that is known to man. I assist the librarian by performing various duties such as replacing books in the proper section, working at the record desk to release and stamp return date on outgoing books and to check on incoming books, cataloging books and examining them to see if they have been damaged, checking records to see what books are overdue, arranging displays and bulletin boards according to the seasons, sending overdue notices to book borrowers, and sorting books and magazines according to classification.

I work with books of every description, covering many phases of many jobs, some giving description in detail, others summarizing briefly. There are books that carry me to far-away lands as well as those that show me the beauty at home; through books I walk with kings, queens, presidents and other great leaders of our nation or any other nation. My imagination runs wild when I deal with Fairy tales and fiction and Mythology, but for a more serious mood, I turn to books of religion and philosophy.

Though my job I have access to all types of magazines which bring out the small everyday things of life. They are as important as a book of facts. I also deal with maps and movie films.

I love my work and I feel that it is important because it helps to develop the mind of the student. When one studies as he reads he learns to form his own opinions. He might read, for instance, "Dr. Ellen"; as he reads further, he may become interested in medicine and if it suits him well enough he may take it as his profession, all because of a book. Because of this experience, I shall always have an interest in people and books.

I have been in training on this job as a D. O. student for two years. I think it is wonderful; my employer is considerate, the working conditions are fine and the financial rewards have been most helpful. Even if I find it impossible to continue my training, the experience has been and will continue to be most useful to me in whatever vocation I may choose.

And now, since I must leave it by way of graduation, I do hope it will fall to some one who will appreciate it as much as I have.

THIS WEEK'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

DO WE LIVE SPIRITUALLY?

Memory Selection: For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ (John 1:17).

WHAT IS A SPIRITUAL PERSON? What is spiritual achievement?

In the Old Testament the answers to those questions are found in the law. Spirituality consists in keeping the law. In the New Testament spiritual experience means going beyond the law in terms of fellowship with Christ and fellowship with others at the point of their need and creative action.

Paul was inclined to think that spirituality could be judged by its fruits—among them love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance (Galatians 5:22-23). These character traits have to do with a man's whole personality and his mastery over his own human nature.

Can a person be a good farmer, a successful businessman, a keen scientist, an efficient housekeeper, or an expert mechanic yet have in his life very few spiritual gifts?

HINDRANCES TO SPIRITUALITY

Certain things hinder one, however, from putting forth the necessary effort for real spiritual achievement. Too often a man mistakes the business virtues of thrift and efficiency and success for fruits of the spirit. There is a tendency to measure a man by his income and possessions.

Recently a banker said to the author that he measured all men by their financial success. If a man had to borrow money except for a definite business venture, he was a failure in the eyes of the banker. Many people continue to equate success with these business virtues.

Are the business virtues a good index of a man's spiritual capacities? What happens to that standard during a financial depression?

Another hindrance to spirituality is the difficulty of measuring results in the realm of the spirit. You can add up a column of figures, balance a budget, and give an accurate, objective picture of a man's business status. It is much more difficult to reflect his spiritual I. Q. How can you add up his love, joy, peace, goodness, patience, and other character traits?

Because of the difficulty of measuring spiritual results people often get discouraged and give up the quest for spiritual experiences.

Of course, the real difficulty is with our own human need. All the emotional complications and all the passions that struggle for recognition within the nervous system make it difficult to achieve spirituality unless some unity of purposes can be won. Instinctive urges that can wonderfully enhance human life can also terribly confuse it.

The problem of spiritual achievement is this: How can one direct and master his own need in order that it may yield spiritual experience and all those fruits of love, joy, peace, good temper, kindness, fidelity?

BECOMING SPIRITUAL

In this connection it may be interesting to examine the methods of Gandhi, one of the most

spiritual persons to have lived in our day. He felt that it was necessary to engage in some manual labor, so kept a spinning wheel going, off and on, during the week. He knew that a period of fasting and meditation was necessary. He felt that for his own spiritual good it was necessary for him to remain silent one day each week. This day he devoted entirely to spiritual exercise and meditation. In addition to this he felt that from time to time longer periods of fasting were necessary. On one occasion he said:

"A religious movement does not depend for its success on the intellectual or material resources of its sponsors; but it depends solely upon the spiritual resources, and fasting in a well-known method of adding to these resources."

Are these methods as applicable to the West as they are to the Orient? Why? Do you think that they developed spirituality in Gandhi? Did this spirituality keep him from achieving his worldly or political objectives? Is there a relationship between

spirituality and practical achievement? If so, explain.

SOME METHODS TO USE

Obviously there is no short cut to the development of a spiritual character any more than you can learn to play the piano in ten easy steps. All instinctive urges must carefully be directed. All worldly pride must be put aside in the interest of honesty and reality.

A satisfactory goal for life is also important in this regard. Jesus held up the goal of the kingdom of God and urged men to organize their lives around it.—C. S.

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