

IS CANCER CURABLE? SOME VERY USEFUL AND HELPFUL SUGGESTIONS

During the Great War the United States lost about 80,000 soldiers. During the same two years 180,000 people died of cancer in that country. Cancer is now killing one out of every ten persons over forty years of age. Many of these deaths are preventable, for cancer is frequently curable, if recognized and properly treated in its early stages.

As a result of the campaign which has been conducted by the American Society for the Control of Cancer for the education of the public on this subject, a greater and more accurate knowledge of this disease is already evident, and many false ideas have been corrected. Cancer is a lawless growth of body cells which destroys life if allowed to run its course. The abnormal growth is composed of cells similar to those of the organ of the body where the cancer occurs; but the cancer cells grow at a more rapid rate than the normal cells of the organ and are not controlled by the laws of growth which keep the normal cells within proper limits.

Actual cancer is sometimes preceded by a so-called precancerous stage which is absolutely curable. By skillful treatment of these precancerous conditions it is possible to prevent the beginning of true cancer. Remove the cause of any form of chronic irritation of the body tissues if you would be sure to prevent at least the possibility of cancer of many types. Persistent ulcerations, cracks and sores, warts and moles or birth-marks which change in appearance or grow larger should be removed.

Intelligent attention to these and other danger signals, and prompt examination by a competent physician or surgeon will greatly reduce the danger of having cancer. After cancer has actually developed in many cases it is still curable, but there should be no delay. The surgeon has apparently learned nearly all he can about the best technical methods of removing the disease. Until medical science discovers the real cause and cure of cancer, hope must be in seeking treatment at the earliest possible period. The patient must be the one to seek treatment and he must do it early.

The possibility of curing cancer by operation is much greater than most people realize. Popular pessimism is increased by the fact that many cases are operated on too late and failures are widely advertised. Successful operations are apt to be concealed or not reported. Cancer patients seldom discuss their condition. They do not wish it to be known that they have been operated on. In other diseases they tell us the facts. Moreover the existence of cancer is often not known to the victim himself.

Whereas a half century ago many medical authorities regarded heredity of considerable importance in the occurrence of cancer, recent statistical facts obtained from hospitals and life insurance companies have tended to furnish evidence to the contrary. Cancer is not transmitted by contact with the patient. It is not a "germ" disease in the sense in which tuberculosis or diphtheria are germ diseases. In all the thousands of recorded operations for cancer there is no report of a case acquired from the patient by any surgeon or nurse. Cruel neglect of some patients has been known to occur because of groundless fear of catching the disease. This is doubly unfortunate since the disease itself in the incurable stages demand unusually patient and humane care for the victim.

Ordinary care and cleanliness should be observed in caring for cancer patients as in cases of any kind of illness, but isolation of the patient and fumigation of the premises, as in the case of contagious diseases, is not called for. Soiled dressings and so forth should be carefully collected and disinfected or burned, not because there is any danger of contagion of cancer but because the discharges and dressings contain germs such as those which cause boils, erysipelas, and other skin inflammations.

The following points should be especially remembered. Cancer is not a "blood disease" but always starts as a local affair. Hence it can always be cured by removal if discovered and treated early enough.

Cancer in the beginning may cause no pain or other symptoms of ill health.

Cancer is not contagious. Cancer is probably not hereditary. No up-to-date doctor will treat a condition that might mean cancer without thorough examination.

The cancer patient must learn to seek treatment as promptly as a

patient with appendicitis. Note: This article is one of a series (300) radio broadcasted from Montreal by W. G. Kennedy; 2,000,000 listeners 200,000, radius 2,000 miles.

CHRISTIAN BROTHERS RECEPTION

LARGEST CLASS IN BROTHERS' HISTORY IN CALIFORNIA

BY BROTHER LEO On the last day of July eighteen young men were clothed with the holy habit of the Brothers of the Christian Schools at De la Salle Institute, Martinez.

That is the simple fact. But the fact has so many implications and such interesting concomitants, it is so significant a fact from the viewpoint of Americanism and the viewpoint of Catholicism, that it could well serve as a text for a sermon eminently timely and sacredly practical.

First of all, the fact that eighteen young men received the habit ought to be a rather convincing proof that the sons of Saint de la Salle are not a negligible factor on the Catholic and educational life of California. And the eighteen are only a minor portion of an impressive group of nearly fifty in all—who, clothed in the religious habit and having made their novitiate, are being prepared for their teaching office. Some of them are working at Martinez under carefully picked instructors on their formal studies; some of them are sophomores at Saint Mary's College—where incidentally they lead their class—intent upon acquiring all that can be acquired from the rich curriculum of "the college for men;" some of them before very long will be regular students at California and Stanford, at Notre Dame and the Catholic University of America. And when they finally step into a classroom of a Brothers' school somewhere or other and begin to exercise their office of teaching, they are going to be men of knowledge and of power.

In the second place, our basic fact does much to disabuse the prevalent notion that religious vocations are hard to secure in this "Blessed Land of Room Enough." Brother Joseph, the provincial of the Brothers, does not think so; Brother Gregory, who this year goes back to the presidency of Saint Mary's College after several months of intensive work as vocational director in the Brothers' schools, does not think so. Both these men, and they are in a position to know, will tell you that there are ever so many boys and young men possessed of the high ideals and the requisite generosity to give their lives to the special service of God. They will tell you that such young men are almost invariably leaders in their classes, too; young men who from the worldly point of view have exceptionally brilliant prospects.

But they will tell you something else; they will tell you—explain the fact how you will—that the boys of this generation have frequently more of the spirit of faith and deeper religious convictions than their parents. Worldly wise parents have done more to thwart the development of religious vocations and impede and hinder the work of the Church and the designs of God than is commonly supposed. There was a time—we have read about it in books—when a Catholic mother felt that to be the sweetest and proudest day of her life when a child of hers dedicated himself to God. Today many a Catholic mother does everything in her power to induce her son to give no heed to the still small voice that, deep in his heart, invites him to choose the better part. And as for the fathers—

Isn't it grotesquely inconsistent, when you think about it, that Catholic parents are sympathetic, or at most indifferent, when their boys want to be lawyers or doctors or engineers or army officers, but that those same parents become of a sudden vehement and sentimental and obstructive when their boys express the laudable desire to become priests or Brothers? And some parents are fairly resigned to their sons' becoming priests, but object most strenuously to their becoming Brothers. How can we account for such a parental attitude?

Brother Joseph will tell you, and Brother Gregory will tell you, it is due to ignorance and to weakness of faith. Such parents, however strenuously they would protest in theory, in practice esteem the things of the world more highly than they esteem the things of God. They are dazzled, it may be, by the lust of the eyes and the pride of life. And when they weakly favor a vocation to the priesthood and stridently oppose a vocation to the Brotherhood, it is because in their eyes a priest has still something of worldly respect and honor, while a Brother abandons even his family name.

Are such parents ruled and guided by sound Catholic principles? When Jesus Christ called His disciples, did He have to say to them of worldly honor and respect? Was it the spirit of trimming, of hedging, of servile compromise that actuated the apostles when they left all to follow Him? "Love not the world," is a divine admonition sorely needed in our day and generation.

Parents and children alike would do well to recall what a vocation really is. For all of us, irrespective of our state of life, the one

thing that matters is the Will of God. What does God want me to be? In what state of life does God wish me to serve Him? These, and only these, are the momentous questions. And if a young man, after mature reflection and after securing competent advice, decides that he is called to a religious state, who are his parents that they should seek to frustrate his intent? Why, even the secular poet, Robert Browning, was keen-eyed enough to sing, " 'Tis an awkward thing to play with souls, And matter enough to save one's own."

Those fifty young Brothers now in course of training, and many more who will enter the novitiate at Martinez during the coming months, will be soldiers in a great educational army, over 20,000 strong, that wages incessant war against ignorance and infidelity all over the world. The Christian Brothers have schools and colleges in France and Belgium, in Holland and Austria and Germany, in Spain and Italy, in England and Ireland, in China and the Philippines and the Far East, in North and South America. Some 1,000 of them labor in the United States. And here in California the work is advancing with rapid strides. Aside from the bay region, where they conduct St. Mary's College and Sacred Heart College, St. Joseph's Academy, St. Peter's School and Mission Dolores School, the Brothers are active in Sacramento in the north and Los Angeles in the south. Under the patronage of Bishop Keane, they are about to erect in the Capitol City a magnificent new building for a Catholic boys' high school, and at the earnest solicitation of Bishop Cantwell they are this summer opening a similar institution in Sacred Heart parish in Los Angeles.

Those young men are at Martinez because the life of the Brothers appeals to them, because the work of the Brothers fascinates and inspires them. And there are countless young men all over the State of California who would gladly and thankfully give themselves to that life and that work if they could but taste the sweetness of the religious profession, if they could but realize the grandeur and the consolation of the teaching office.

More today than ever in its history, this country needs truly educated men; more than ever it needs the services of teachers who are at once men of character and ideals, and men of scholarship and efficiency. It is the exalted vocation of the Brothers of the Christian Schools to supply both needs.

St. Michael's College, Toronto—after leaving school he entered the employ of his father in the contracting business and which business he himself, in later years was successfully engaged in.

It was probably as Mayor of Thorold that the people of his native town knew him best. Notwithstanding his large business interests he took a great interest in Municipal affairs and in 1895 was elected a member of the Thorold Town Council as Deputy Reeve and in 1896 as Reeve, and was for years a member of the Welland County Council. In 1898 he was elected Mayor of Thorold. This office he filled at different times for eight years. He was Thorold's war-time Mayor, during 1914-1918, and gave four years of untiring labor and leadership—so much so, that few if any towns of similar size in Canada, did more war-time effort in men and money than did the Town of Thorold. He was an active member of the Thorold Board of Trade and a former president, and assisted at all times, in every way anything that promised to promote the town's progress. He also was for years a member of the Board of Health and Thorold Public Library Board.

Mr. Battle was a Liberal in politics, being for years president of the Liberal Association and was the Liberal candidate for Welland in the Ontario Legislature in 1904. He was a devoted member of the Roman Catholic church and a generous contributor to all church work. He is survived by his sorrowing widow, one son, the Rev. Father Thomas F. Battle of St. Mary's Church, Toronto, and four daughters, Mrs. Leo Murphy of Port Dalhousie and the Misses Mary Geraldine and Helena to whom much sympathy is extended in their loss.

He was a member of the C. M. B. A., The Canadian Home Circle, the A. O. U. W. and Knights of Columbus.

THE FUNERAL The funeral cortege consisted of an exceptionally long line of cars containing representatives of the Town Council, Board of Trade, Separate School Board, Liberal Association, Knights of Columbus, Canadian Home Circle, Board of Health, A. O. U. W. and County Council. All available space in the church was occupied, many having gone there long before the cortege left the home.

Twenty-one members of the clergy friends of the deceased attended the funeral, were present in the sanctuary and led the procession to the church doors following the Mass. Rev. Thomas Battle, only son of the deceased, sang Requiem High Mass and read the committal prayers at the grave. Rev. Father Williams, a former curate of Thorold parish, preached the funeral sermon. Six brothers acted as pall-bearers: Messrs. David, James, Martin, Richard, J. P. Sarsfield and Thomas F. Battle.

WEEKLY CALENDAR Sunday, Oct. 14.—St. Callistus, Pope, martyr, succeeded St. Zephyrinus as Pope in the third century. During the persecution under the Emperor Severus, St. Callistus was driven to take refuge in the poor quarters of the city. He was martyred in the year 223.

Monday, Oct. 15.—St. Teresa. When a child of seven years, Teresa ran away from her home at Avila in Spain in the hope of being martyred by the Moors. Being brought back she said: "I want to see God and I must die before I can

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ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL, PASSAIC, N. J. YOUNG ladies who wish to become Trained Nurses have an excellent opportunity by applying to St. Mary's Hospital Training School, Passaic, New Jersey. Requirements: One year High school or equivalent. 238-10.

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SEALED Tenders addressed to the undersigned, and endorsed "Tender for harbour improvements at Port Stanley, Ont.," will be received at this office until 12 o'clock noon, Monday, October 22, 1923, for harbour improvements, consisting of the construction of an east pier and a sheet pile wall at Port Stanley, Elgin County, Ont. Plans and forms of contract can be seen and specifications and forms of tender obtained at this Department, at the offices of the District Engineer, Royal Bank Building, London, Ont.; Post Office, Port Stanley, Ont. Tenders will not be considered unless made on printed forms supplied by the Department and in accordance with conditions contained therein. Each tender must be accompanied by an accepted cheque on a chartered bank payable to the order of the Minister of Public Works, equal to 10 p. c. of the amount of the tender. War Loan Bonds of the Dominion will also be accepted as security, or War Bonds and cheques, if required to make up an odd amount. Notice:—The price can be obtained at the Department by depositing an accepted bank cheque for the sum of \$2.00, payable to the order of the Minister of Public Works, which will be returned if the intending bidder submit a regular bid. By order, R. C. DESROCHERS, Secretary, Department of Public Works, Ottawa, September 24, 1923.

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