

Evening fell, and the sick man sank into natural sleep. But at midnight came a sudden wild alarm, hurrying footsteps, prayers, tears—and the message we call Death.

Lovingly the Flower Lady gathered up the scattered petals of the white rose in the morning. In the hurry and confusion careless hands had pushed it from its place, and heedless feet had trampled on the message we call Life.—The Magnificat.

## CENTENARY OF PASTEUR

### BRINGS TO LIGHT MANY EVIDENCES OF HIS FAITH

By M. Massiani  
Paris Correspondent, N. G. W. C. News Service

"In Pasteur were found three qualities so rarely combined, which make the true benefactors of mankind: power of genius, strength of character and kindness." These words of a French historian sum up admirably the life of the great Christian scholar whose centenary has just been celebrated.

It was on December 27, 1822, that Louis Pasteur was born at Dole, in Franche-Comte. His father, Joseph Pasteur, a former sergeant-major of Napoleon's army, had established himself as a tanner. His mother was the daughter of a gardener. They lived in a modest house, with low ceilings, and were good, laborious and religious people. Pasteur never failed to give them credit for the examples of courage which he had received from them and the success of the work he did. "I owe them everything," he was wont to say. "When young, they kept me out of bad company, and they gave me the habit of work and examples of the most loyal and well-filled life."

The family moved to Arbois, not far from Dole, in 1833, and as soon as Pasteur came of school age, he attended the school there. He was a good pupil and applied himself well. He was particularly gifted for drawing, and some remarkable portraits of his parents, drawn when he was twelve or fifteen years old have been preserved. But he did not concern himself with drawing. He wished to prepare himself for a professorship, and it was along this line that his studies were directed, without deviation, and with the most remarkable tenacity. At the age of eighteen he wrote to his sisters: "When one has once become accustomed to work, one can no longer live without it."

#### WHEN SCIENCE FIRST CALLED

Bachelor of Letters and of Mathematics, he went to Paris to prepare for the entrance examination to the Ecole Normale Supérieure, which gives the highest literary and scientific courses and trains professors for the lycées. He was poor, and found room and board in a private institution where he paid for his board by teaching the pupils between the hours of his classes. The small amount of leisure time which remained was spent at the Sorbonne listening to the courses of renowned scholars, especially those of the famous chemist, Jean-Baptiste Dumas. It was these courses which decided his vocation for the study of science.

In 1843 he entered the Ecole Normale Supérieure, fourth on the list, and from that time on he studied so hard that his family feared for his health. A letter has been preserved in which his father advises him to take some rest. With great good humor the old tanner wrote: "Here are the holidays at last. You are coming home with your good comrade Chapuis. I have bought for you some Arbois wine of the vintage of 1834. We have put it in bottles. We shall drink the first in honor of the Ecole Normale. There is more wit in the bottom of these hundred bottles than in all the philosophy books of the world."

What the good tanner did not know was that it was precisely in wine bottles that his son was to find the subject of the first discoveries which were to make his name famous. After having passed the examinations for the licentiate and the aggregation of physical sciences, he was assigned, in the Normal School, to the laboratory of one of the professors, who was a member of the Academy of Medicine. There he made some studies of tarter and paratarter of wine, deposits left by the liquid in the bottom of bottles and on the sides of kegs. A German mineralogist had announced the existence of certain unexplainable phenomena concerned with the composition of tarter and paratarter. Pasteur undertook to solve the enigma. After long months of work and numerous experiments, he found the solution.

#### EXPLAINS FERMENTATION

This first discovery, which attracted to him the attention of the scientific world was to open a magnificent series of experiments and successes. He later explained the fermentation of wine, milk and beer, a discovery of far-reaching consequences since it provided a guarantee against the adulteration of milk and wine. This was the creation of the "Pasteur method." Later Pasteur discovered the action of microbes, which revolutionized the science of medicine and surgery, revealing the mysteries of contagion and infection and making possible

the establishment of the beneficial laws of antiseptics.

These discoveries were the result of experiments conducted day and night with tireless and marvelous application. Pasteur became a professor first at Strasbourg, then at Dijon and Lille, and was later appointed scientific director of the Ecole Normale. Everywhere he used every instant which could be spared from his obligation to his experiments. After his marriage, his wife, Marie Laurent, daughter of his director in Strasbourg, became his most attentive and zealous laboratory assistant. Pasteur was daunted by nothing. At the Ecole Normale he first took for a laboratory an old shed which, according to the words of his first pupil, "would not be used today for a rabbit hutch." He was never tired bending over his test tubes or his microscope, in fact he gave of himself with such imprudence that at the age of forty he was stricken by hemiplegia. For two months he hung between life and death and his left side remained paralyzed.

Far from abandoning his efforts, he gave himself up to his work with renewed will. By the discovery of new methods of making vinegar, he revived and enlarged the local industry of Orleans. Later, when a mysterious epidemic ruined the raising of the silk worms in Southern France, three thousand six hundred mayors petitioned the Faculty to send Pasteur to them. The great scholar worked for two years to find the origin of the evil. He found it, and thereby assured the safety of the silk industry not only in France, but Italy, Spain and even in China to which far country the epidemic had spread. The economic importance of this one discovery can be fully appreciated when it is known that in the single district of Alsace, in France, the epidemic, in ten years, caused damage to the extent of 100,000,000 francs.

#### ANTHRAX ANTI-TOXIN DISCOVERED

Hardly had this great success been attained, when Pasteur set out to extirpate another great evil. France had lost each year about twenty per cent. of its horses, cattle and sheep from anthrax. After a long period of research and experiments, a decisive test was made on June 2, 1881, on a farm in the vicinity of Melun and ended in a complete victory over the terrible disease. Pasteur actually trembled with joy. The professors and veterinarians who had expressed doubts concerning his method were confounded. The disease was mastered by the discovery of the anthrax anti-toxin.

At the same time Pasteur discovered a treatment to prevent a disease common among pigs, which, in the United States alone, in 1879, had killed more than a million pigs.

It is easy to understand the statement made by the great English physicist Huxley at a public lesson of the Royal Society of London: "The discoveries of Pasteur alone would suffice to cover the war ransom of five thousand million paid by France to Germany in 1870."

Though not affecting so many people one of the most marvellous discoveries and precious benefits to humanity was the cure of hydrophobia. The Roman physician Celsus who lived in the first century of the Christian era, recommended cauterization with red hot irons a cure for hydrophobia, and no progress had been made up to the nineteenth century. Long pointed needles were plunged into the face of the victim, and Pasteur, as a child, had seen one of his comrades treated in this way. During the last years of his life he was to have the overwhelming joy of overcoming an evil which one century had bequeathed to another as incurable.

In 1885 the experiments he had conducted on dogs were sufficiently successful to warrant their application to human beings. A child of nine years who had been bitten by a dog was brought to him from Alsace. Ten days after the arrival of the little Alsatian his cure was no longer a subject of doubt. From all parts of Europe, victims of hydrophobia came to Pasteur's laboratory. In Paris they had found a savior.

#### "BEFORE AND AFTER PASTEUR"

The name of Louis Pasteur became famous in all parts of the world. An international subscription was opened to erect an Institute where his research work and that of his disciples could be conducted under the best possible conditions. For the master had drawn around him an elite of young scholars who, trained by his example and his teachings, were to carry on his work. It was one of his disciples, the name of Bux who, after the death of Pasteur, discovered the serum for diphtheria, and another, named Yersin, who discovered the microbe of the plague.

As Pasteur drew near the end, he could thank God that his life had been well filled and that it had served to relieve some of the worst sufferings of humanity. More than this, he had the consolation of seeing that his work would be carried on by his disciples, a work so vast and so grand, that a great French scholar once said of it: "I should be inclined to make this classification in the history of medicine—medicine before Pasteur, and after Pasteur."

It would indeed have been unjust had so much merit not brought numerous honors to Pasteur during his lifetime. He was elected mem-

ber of the Academy of Sciences, of the French Academy, of the Academy of Medicine, perpetual secretary of the Institute, accorded the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honor, and the Chambers voted him a national pension. When he reached his seventieth birthday, all the celebrities of the nation assembled at the Sorbonne to pay him a tribute, and the President of the Republic himself received him and led him to the seat of honor. So many laurels, however, found him and left him very modest. When he was celebrated as one of the glories of his country, he replied by recalling the laborious humility of his parents. When his name was given to the Institute founded by international subscription, it was against his wishes and in spite of his protests. One day, when representing France at an international medical congress in London, his appearance in the convention hall was greeted with thunderous applause. "It must be the Prince of Wales coming in," he said to his son, who accompanied him. "We were wrong to come so late."

#### KIND TO POOR STUDENTS

He was both generous and good, distributing to the laboratories, to poor students or to the sick, the money which was sent him by his admirers. He was so interested in his "patients" that despite his multiple occupations he corresponded with them after their cure, gave them sound moral advice and often paid for the education of their children.

He was a firm believer, practicing his religion without fear and without ostentation. One time on Friday, he refused to eat meat at a banquet, and to a person who congratulated him he replied: "There is no merit in that. I am a Christian and I obey the Church." In his speech at the time of his reception in the French Academy, before the entire assembly which had met to welcome him, he proclaimed to the sceptic Roman, who had made the speech of welcome: "I see everywhere the expression of the infinite in the world; through it, the supernatural is in the bottom of every heart."

When he learned of the death of his father, he wrote to his little daughter: "He died the day of your First Communion, my dear Cecile. I had a presentiment of his death when that very morning I asked you to pray for the grandfather in Arbois. Your prayers will have been agreeable to God, and who knows whether grandfather himself did not know of them, and rejoice with poor little Jeanne (a daughter whom he had recently lost) over the holy fervor of Cecile?"

It was Louis Pasteur, also, who made to one of his friends this statement which has become famous: "After studying a great deal, I have the faith of a Breton peasant woman."

His religious faith comforted him during the sad trials which darkened his life, notably at the death of his three daughters. It supported him in the suffering which preceded his death, and it was grasping a crucifix in one hand, with the other in the hand of his wife, that he passed away on September 28, 1895.

#### HIS DEATH A NATIONAL LOSS

His death was a national loss. Never has a more impressive funeral been seen. For four days a multitude too large to be estimated filed past his coffin. On the day of the funeral the President of the Republic, the Chambers, the Academies in a body, an enormous crowd of people, walking between two full infantry divisions followed the hearse to the Cathedral of Notre Dame, where Cardinal Richelieu gave the absolution. The coffin was then placed on a high catafalque in the center of the great cathedral square. A magnificent tribute to the dead was pronounced there, in the name of the government, by a very young member of the Cabinet whose eloquence was revealed to the public on that day, but who was later to become well known. The name of the young minister was Raymond Poincaré.

From the provisional vault at Notre Dame the coffin was later borne to the crypt of the Pasteur Institute. The great scientist rests there, by the side of his wife, in the midst of the laboratories and libraries where his memory and thought remain as an inspiration for continuous study and generous devotion to the alleviation of human suffering and infirmities. At the four corners of the tomb are four figures—Faith, Hope, Charity and Science. They are a true expression of the genius and of the very soul of the great man whose centennial is being celebrated today as that of one of the greatest benefactors of humanity.

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#### CANDLEMAS

The Angel-lights of Christmas morn,  
Which shot across the sky,  
Away they pass at Candlemas,  
They sparkle and they die.

Comfort of earth is brief at best,  
Although it be divine,  
Like funeral lights for Christmas gone  
Old Simeon's tapers shine.

And then for eight long weeks and more,  
We wait in twilight grey,  
Till the high candle sheds a beam  
On Holy Saturday.

We wait along the penance-tide  
Of solemn fast and prayer;  
While snow is hushed, and lights grow dim  
In the sin-laden air.

And while the sword in Mary's soul  
Is driven home, we hide  
In our own hearts, and count the wounds  
Of passion and of pride.

And still, though Candlemas be spent  
And Alleluia o'er,  
Mary is music in our need,  
And Jesus light in store.

—JOHN HENRY NEWMAN

## NON-CATHOLIC SURVEY

### PAYS STRIKING TRIBUTE TO AFRICAN MISSION SCHOOLS

High praise is bestowed on Catholic mission schools in various parts of Africa by a commission which made a study of West, South and Equatorial Africa for the Phelps-Stokes Fund and various Protestant mission societies of the United States and Europe. The commission travelled in Africa from September 4, 1920, to August 1, 1921, and its report was prepared by Thomas Jesse Jones, chairman. The report has been issued by the Phelps-Stokes Fund, 297 Fourth Avenue.

Although most of the space is devoted to government schools, a general survey of education, and Protestant institutions, many pages tell of the hundreds of Catholic schools training tens of thousands of children and students. The work of the Cape Coast School for Girls is described as "effective." In Nigeria our missionaries are "maintaining important educational activities" in various provinces. Writing of the Belgian Congo, Mr. Jones says: "It is impossible to give an adequate description of the important education work maintained by the various Roman Catholic Societies." He adds a description of the more important of these "splendid schools." The Kisumu Jesuit School is "deservedly famous." Though located in the tsetse fly belt, it has developed a large model farm, with 300 employees. The Fathers and Brothers are described as "men of refinement, broad education, and devotion to their work." The Sisters in charge of the Kisumu school for girls are "women of culture." The schools of the White Fathers receive the tribute of being "related to the simple needs of the people and carefully supervised." More manual training is suggested for some of the schools. However, the Fathers and Sisters of the Holy Ghost Congregation are reported to be "skilled in their work and devoted to the improvement of the children" in their charge.

The Mariannhill Institute, conducted by the Trappists in Natal, is paid the compliment of being "one of the most important schools in South Africa." This tribute is made more striking by the further statement that Natal's system of education for the Natives "is undoubtedly the most effective organization" which the commission "observed anywhere in Africa." Mariannhill "is well known for its excellent courses in teacher training and its extensive industries, and agricultural activities. Stress is laid on practical subjects, such as methods of teaching, physiology and hygiene, agriculture and the Zulu language." The institute's industrial activities include carpentry, brick-making, stone-cutting, leather work of all kinds, blacksmithing, wheelwrighting, stained-glass work, photography, tailoring, shoe-making, painting and printing. The gardens are "models of order and effectiveness." "The industrial training of girls is extensive. The making of lace and embroidery is done by hand. Overalls and uniforms are made by power machinery." Father Bernard has made a collection of Zulu songs, and "under his direction the normal students have dramatized stories of native life."

FAMOUS DISCIPLE OF PASTEUR  
Dublin, Jan. 11.—Dublin had right to assist in the centenary celebrations of Pasteur, for this city numbers among its scientists and physicians many of the disciples of the famous Frenchman. Chief among these is a distinguished Catholic, Dr. E. J. McWeeney, Professor of Pathology and Bacteriology in the National University. Dr. McWeeney studied in St. Orner, Vienna, and Berlin (Koch's Laboratory). He not only applied but improved upon Pasteur's discoveries. He is Bacteriologist to the Local Government Ministry for

Ireland. He was instrumental in introducing into Medical Jurisprudence the Precipitin Test which

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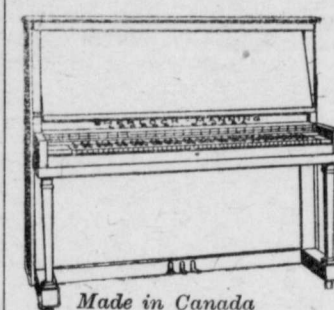
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