

A Church Service in the Home

In many parts of Canada local conditions may prevent people from getting to church, especially in the country during winter. Perhaps at that time of the year no public services are held. There may then be a desire on the part of the head of the family to hold some simple kind of service in the home, that the Sunday may not pass entirely without a recognition of the higher things of life. The question arises—What form shall the service take, and how long should it last? This is how some Church of England people have solved it. Of course those of other denominations would probably do things more in accordance with their own religious observances.

The service begins with a hymn taken from "Hymns Ancient and Modern." Next comes a prayer from a very interesting little book entitled "Great Souls at Prayer." Fourteen centuries of prayer, praise and aspiration, from St. Augustine to Christina Rossetti and Robert Louis Stevenson." These prayers are selected and arranged by Mrs. Mary W. Tilston, and published by H. R. Allenson, Ltd., of London, England. This little book is quite handy for the pocket, yet contains one or some times two prayers for every day in the year.

Next are taken the Psalms for the day, which are either sung to a well-known chant or read, one verse by

the father, and the alternate verses by the remainder of the household. Then comes another hymn, and after that the Collect, Epistle and Gospel be read aloud. There happened to be in the house a copy of "The Teacher's Prayer Book," with introductions, analyses and notes, by Alfred Barry, D.D., D.C.L., Canon of Westminster." These explanatory notes are read immediately after Collect, Epistle and Gospel. These notes are short, yet very helpful and instructive.

Then follows the third hymn, and after that "The Reading," as it is called by the wife, who generally chooses the hymns and writes out the little order of service for each Sunday. This used sometimes to consist of "The Upward Look" from Farm and Dairy. Occasionally two would be read together, as they are rather short. At other times the following order for a reading. They were not specially purchased for the purpose, several being the gifts of friends at various times. They are: "The City with Foundations," by John Edgar McFadyen, formerly Professor of Old Testament Literature and Exegesis in Knox College, Toronto; "Concerning the Christ," by J. D. Freeman, M.A.; "The Art of Life," by F. B. Meyer, B.A.; "Happiness," by Hugh Black; "Sermons on Bible Subjects," by Frederick W. Robertson. One more hymn (generally for chil-

dren) concludes the service, which usually lasts a little less than an hour, and is generally held in the morning, at some convenient time when chores are finished, and breakfast things all put away. Some of the hymns are vout, Christmas, Easter, etc., and others are from the general hymns. The morning is preferred to the evening, so that the children may be present. They soon learn to keep quiet and attend the service, and it has a good effect on their behavior when it is possible to take them to church.

Wanted—A Drink of Water

If the baby that lies cooing and smiling in its mother's arms, could talk, here is, perhaps, what it would say: "This is a very strange world to me. I have not been here long enough to get acquainted with it, and to understand its ways; but I hope and trust you are going to be good to me. Oh, yes, I understand that you are mighty glad I came and that all the money in the world would not tempt you to part with me, still I am beginning to be a little bit doubtful as to your good intentions. "For example, yesterday when I wanted a drink of water and asked for it the only way I knew how, the nurse took me up and trotted me on her knee and then turned me over on my stomach and patted me on the back, still I kept on yelling for that drink of water, until at last the nurse

concluded I had the colic and put a few drops of something on a tea-spoon, added a little milk and forced this nasty stuff down my throat in spite of the fact that I kicked with all my might and just cried and howled to beat the band. But with all my kicking and yelling the nurse got most of the stuff down my throat and in a little while I went to sleep and woke up with a heep worse thirst than I had before.

"My, how I did want a drink of water; so I just set up another howl—I guess that is what they call it when a baby tries to tell what it wants—and just then my grandma came in, took me up in her arms and after cuddling me a little bit, she said to my nurse, 'Jane, bring me some of that cooled boiled water. This boy wants a drink of water and I know it.' My, how good that water tasted.

"Grandma said I took three whole teaspoonfuls, which I did, and wanted more, but Grandma said I'd had enough. I felt just fine after that big drink of water, the first I'd had for a week, and I just kind of lolled over and went to sleep in Grandma's lap and had a nice long nap. When I woke up I was so hungry that I took all the food there was in the bottle that nurse gave me, and wanted more. I wonder why it is that baby people don't understand that a baby wants a drink of water two or three times a day instead of having milk all the time. I wonder why?"—Chicago Health Dept.



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