

ANOTHER VIEW

PUBLICITY GIVEN TO ANOTHER WRITER ON TUBERCULOSIS.



IN The Chemawa American for March there appears an article entitled "What an expert says," which contains several erroneous statements regarding Christian Scientists and the Christian Science church. I am sure these misstatements were made inadvertently and that you will therefore be glad to have them corrected.

The Christsian Science church has not attacked the the movement for tuberculosis hospitals, as was stated. Indeed it recognizes the right of every individual to have whatever system of treatment he prefers. It has no desire to force its own particular beliefs on others and only asks the same considerations from those of different beliefs.

In the Christian Science Monitor of January 23, statements by Dr. Baldwin were quoted to show his opinion concerning the mistaken and "extreme ideas of infection" from tuberculosis now held by many people. These statements were taken from an article appearing in the Journal of the American Medical Association, bearing a heading in medical terms that had but one meaning, namely, that the over exploitation of tuberculosis has led to an unreasonable fear or dread of it. The Monitor did not misrepresent Dr. Baldwin. As evidence of its entire good faith it published, on February 4, a complete statement setting forth his views on the subject. This statement I give below, and from it an impartial judgment of his views can be formed without relying upon second hand information or casting unjust reflections on Christian Science.

"Adults are very little endangered by close contact with open tuberculosis, and not at all in ordinary association. Childhood is the time of infection, youth the time of superinfection and that from extension of the primary disease. Qualify these statements as we may, it is time for a reaction against the extreme ideas of infection now prevailing.

"There has been too much read into popular literature by health boards and lectures that has no sound basis in facts, and it needs to be dropped out or revised. More protection of children and better hygiene for adults are logically demanded, but beyond this the preachments about the danger of infection to adults in the present state of society are without justification from an experimental standpoint."

Very truly yours,

PAUL STARK SEELY.

[In giving publicity to the above article we are following the same course of absolute impartiality which inspired us to publish "What an Expert Says" in our March issue. The article in question was supplied us by The National Association for the Study and Prevention of Tuberculosis. Whether right or wrong, we believe the intention was to assist humanity; we know that such was our desire in giving publicity. We desire to offend no person's honest views and hope that we may not be asked to publsh anything farther along these lines.—ED.]