Can Religion be Caught in the College?

An editorial by John Paul, President of Taylor University.

(This title is composed with apologies to an excellent "Professor of Religion" who wrote in the magazine, Christian Education, for October, on "Can Religion Be Taught (Effectively) in the Colleges?").

Is true religion an experience growing out of a habit, or is it a habit growing out of an experience? Does religious education result in producing a religious person, or does it begin with a person who has religion? The strictly modern education says yes to the former alternative in each of these questions. The old style, not right in everything but eternally right in some things, says yes to the last mentioned alternative.

Religious education without some religion to educate is as beautifully idiotic as the fertilizing and high cultivation of a seedless, plantless garden bed or the incessant plowing of an unplanted corn or cabbage row. The religious cultivation of a soul which has not received the engrafted word of life supposes spontaneous generation. It is in harmony with some educators' idea of the origin of natural life; but no scientist has ever been able to produce natural life. One scientist concedes that it may never have been produced (on the earth) but possibly was transported here on meteoric stones! Produced somewhere else, if you please, where nature possessed richer resources.

The religious man is not a highly developed robot or a well drilled actor. He may not act at all. It is more impressive when he is unsophisticated; when that strange, glad, peaceful thing which is in him bubbles over into his conduct and influences his plans.

Pure religion acts after you have it; it leads one to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction and to keep himself unspotted from the world. It may have its skyline lifted; it may be given a larger vision of service to mankind and taught more of the noble art of fellowship with God. It may be drilled in using the spiritual weapons of Christ's warfare for tearing down the strongholds of Satan.

But it is uncanny to put sermons in the mouth of a man with unchanged heart or drill him in the art of teaching people the way of eternal life. The first lesson for the student in a Christian college is that God commandeth all men everywhere to repent; that he must be born again and washed in God's fountain of cleansing.

(Continued on page two)
Every new group of students coming in should be exhorted and inspired by their environment, by their teachers, and by the older students, early to seek that new epoch of entire commitment to Christ, laying a foundation on which Christian education is possible. The setting that makes most efficiently for this result, that is potent to raise the tides of evangelistic influence to where every student's boat will float above the sandbars of infidelity and sinful compromise, is entitled to be called a Christian College.

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CHALLENGING THE GIANT
Taylor's President Discusses Its Debt Raising Campaign.

No appeals for another building; no rush for another unit of endowment. How strange. Don't we need them? Well, yes, we could do better with them than without them; and they present an inviting occasion for some one's bequest to build a monument more enduring than marble.

But who would not get a thrill if he should see Taylor University free from debt? Some one may say, you cannot raise a shout over this appeal; to pass the hat to pay a debt makes people yawn. There is even a theory that colleges like Taylor should make a kind of half secret out of their debts and parade the constructive side till people, paying for the school's "enlargement," will incidentally pay its debts. But here are the facts, which at no time have been kept secret: Taylor's world program and struggle to help worthy boys and girls have entailed a current indebtedness of $128,000, and its building enterprises have involved a bonded indebtedness of $290,000. In good values, the college has about a million dollars more than it owes. But it cannot spare what it has to pay the debts without crippling its usefulness.

The wisdom of a debt is determined by what one has to show for it. I am not pleading a record of perfect wisdom in the creation of Taylor's involvements, but I am saying that the institution has a plant of unusual efficiency, a perfect surprise to most people who inspect us for their first time. There are values in building and equipment that easily account for the bonded indebtedness; and in the cases of the quarter of a million dollar Magee-Campbell-Wisconsin system of buildings, capable of housing 300 people and feeding 400, there is a sound productive value.

There is a pathos in that $128,000 of current indebtedness. Part of it indeed represents current funds drawn away in the vortex of the building drive; but most of it has been transmuted into the gold coin of Christian character and sent forth to render service in human uplift beyond the seven seas. It represents drops of blood in the perspiration of men like Reed, Winchester, Vay-hinger, Taylor, Ayres, and some of the rest of us, making life possible for boys and girls who by their own confession would have fallen under the floods, but who through this price have got their college education and gone forth to produce for the kingdom of Christ. For every dollar invested by our friends in lifting this burden of debt there will have been a day of poorly paid toil, a heartache, a drop of blood, by some co-worker on Taylor's campus.

If a thousand friends would write us tomorrow pledging a Christmas gift of $100 apiece, and two thousand pledging $50 each and ten thousand pledging from one to twenty-five, it would bring holiday rejoicing to the old campus, followed by a new year's dawn with promise of service unparalleled by all our past.

HOW DID THE HARD TIMES HIT US?

It is quite remarkable the tenacity with which young people have kept in school and Dads and Mothers have stood by them in spite of drought, unemployment and financial depression. Taylor's senior class is the largest in its history. There is a shortage in the Freshman class, but the shortage is made up elsewhere and the numbers measure up with last year's average, with more planning to come.

In cash, Taylor was hit hard through the summer. Its banking facilities are not large, and there was a period in which payment of bond interests had to be delayed. Indeed some "fine" industrial paper failed to pay us interest, many friends fell down in their obligations to the school and one bank closed with some of our money; but we found plenty of company among commercial firms and business men who had corresponding experiences, and all in all those with whom we have dealt were generous, uncritical and considerate. Some bondholders showed their faith by sending in their checks for more bonds when their interest was being held up. Taylor University is a going and growing concern, more tenacious of life than half a dozen average banks. It has "nine lives"—and then it has its "Grand De­positum" of Eternal Life.

ALL ABOARD FOR DECEMBER 10

New students will enter Taylor December 10, the opening of the Winter Term. Classes will be provided for them; courses in progress will be timed by the professors to form convenient junctures for them to enter. It has been an unusual season, and some college students, freshmen es-
pecially, have held back, hoping that financial circumstances might improve by the second term. It is perilous to wait too long and lose contact. One might drift far out to sea and miss his college education entirely. We are hoping that any young people in the balances now will tip the beam in favor of college and make arrangements to enter Taylor December 10.

Write for catalogue and admission blank, or send in $5.00 for your room reservation.

OCTOBER EVENTS ON THE CAMPUS

As this reaches our readers we shall be in the closing days of the fall revival, and the Legal Hundred will be holding its semiannual meeting (October 29). Taylor begins the year with a fine spiritual interest. It prefaced its year's program with the words, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Our first call is to look after the spiritual life of our students, that their education may be one of heart as well as mind, and that they may go forth qualified to look after the spiritual life of the church and the salvation of the world. They are just about unanimous for Christ and full salvation on the Taylor campus. The glory holds; the grand traditions do not fail. The world needs us only as we stay by our landmarks.

THE GLOBE REVIEW FOR OCTOBER

The Globe Review makes you a citizen of the world. You enter by the Taylor door; for the Taylor University Press is publisher and John Paul is editor, with Barton Rees Pogue Associate Editor. You cannot afford to miss what is now appearing in this brisk and buoyant magazine. The price is, per year $1.50; eight months, $1.00; four months, 50 cents; per copy, 15 cents.

In the October number is Barton Rees Pogue's homey illustrated poem, "The Icing in the Pan." Then "Two Fortnights of Human History" throbbing with interest and information. The editorials include: Control of Power by the Government; New Cycle of the World Court; Mrs. McCormick Promises to Follow the Crowd; The Primary a Poor Reform; Nature's Way in Race Distinction; Woman Pursuing Her Golden Age; a passing, good humored center shot at "Brother" Mencken, the "Comrades" and the Iconoclast; Conan Doyle and The Spirit World, and "The Theology of 1950." John Paul is writing a special life of George Washington which is timely now in its survey and emphasis. The "great Jew, Dr. Harris, writes again on "The Universal Lord." There are two comebacks on Gandhi, in the Open Court. The eclectic views on Medicine and Hygiene bristle with independence, and Joshua Leftus still furnishes fun. There are other items too numerous to mention.

TOPICAL REFLECTIONS

No alumni are more loyal and helpful than Taylor's, when they are vocal; and more and more they are becoming vocal.

The Alumni subscription to endowment is steadily growing. They have a nineteen year automatic payment plan. Pay 7% per annum on a note, half for principal and half for interest, nineteen years and it cancels itself.

The Christian Witness, 1410 N. La Salle Street, Chicago, that oldest full salvation weekly in America, gives Taylor University a page or two each month. The president of Taylor is an editorial writer for its pages. It comes weekly at $1.50 per year.

Taylor has an unsurpassed group of dynamic young professors with fire in their souls and brains in their heads. Not boys, but men reaching their prime, who are carrying off with honor, the Ph. D. recognition or best accreditments of such institutions as Yale, Ohio State, Michigan State, and Iowa State. They include: J. Arthur Howard, W. A. Saucier, George Dixon Greer, C. O. Bush, John H. Furbay, A. L. Bramlett, Barton Rees Pogue, and A. W. Crossman. There are a few select lady professors that are virtually their equals in the race.

Due to last year's senior gift it is thought that Taylor has one of the best if not the most up to date Biological Laboratory among the liberal arts colleges of Indiana.

The Chemistry Laboratory under Professor Bush and Associate Professor Ritchie is a sunburst. It did as much as any one feature to sell the college to the inspectors.

The Department of Speech has enterprised its own plant covering the top floor of the Administration Building, paying for it without drawing on the college offices. In this growing science Taylor has enterprising leadership.

The School of Music this year is scintillating with service. They are now not only sending out gospel team talent, but music units for high class artist recitals.

At this time the Alumni Association is beginning the publication of an alumni quarterly. We understand that the first issue will be ready before many days. Everyone who pays his alumni dues of $1.00 a year will be entitled to the quarterly. Officers of the Alumni extend their invitation to all former students to enroll, pay their dues, and receive the quarterly, whether they completed their work at Taylor or not. Address the college office.

Among the live feature articles of the Globe Review for November will be "The Man from Indiana"; a discussion of the record and personality of Senator James E. Watson. A fine picture of the Senator will appear.
CONAN DOYLE AND THE SPIRIT WORLD.

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, deceased, is alive and conscious in the spirit world; and, with more than the usual resource and determination, he is grappling with the problem of bridging that chasm between mortals and immortals. Mrs. Doyle affirms that several times he has communicated with her, and that though she has not seen his spirit, she has a photograph, hazy and elusive, which some one has succeeded in taking.

We have Oliver Lodge the scientist, William James the psychologist, and Conan Doyle the author, among the witnesses who have claimed to be sure that a universe of spirit exists beyond the borderland of the natural. While their demonstrations are far from satisfactory, it is an impressive consideration that in all the world no scholar or explorer or ruler can offer a vindicated objection to the general principle of their claim.

The plain inference is that our known universe, a vast united system, is in the intimate grip of a greater parent system which is spiritual. The Jewish and Christian exponents of this truth do not like the way the spiritualists react to it. They feel that spiritualist leaders are converts from a godless materialism and that as such they have entered the subject of the supernatural by way of a back door, so to speak; but when one compares the ultimate gist of teaching, spiritualism agrees with the poises of theistic belief, whatever may be spiritualism's Christological errors and the non-redemptive level of its functioning.

RELIGION MUST BE HOT

When a religious leader's brain growth is of such a quality that his religious convictions relax he should stand aside good naturedly and encourage men with hot hearts to take his place, or else he will kill his church. It may be an adverse compliment to religion, but some men with more zeal than poise, indeed some of a type next door to insanity, have been great revivalists, reforming and converting the multitudes. Is it because the propositions of the gospel are hard on the intelligence, or is it because our education and environment of growth disqualify us to perceive reality? There is a fear that men's brains sometimes get in the way of their hearts.

We hate to say it, but why not stick to facts; every great movement that has really moved in human history, whether it was under Melchisedec, Josiah, Savonarola, Mohammed, Luther, Wesley, Garretson, Moody, Bryan, or Lenin (pardon the mixture of good and bad), has had people whose zeal made them cranks, almost or quite.

Herein lies one explanation of the recent loss of membership in some of the great Christian denominations. The preachers are too intellectual to strike fire. This would not be so tragic if they were not, like the Pharisees of old, falling to enter into a fervent evangelistic ministry and forbidding them that would enter in. About the time the slump was at its worst, wiseacres in high places were planning to annul the Scriptural office of evangelist by boycotting evangelists, and undertaking to substitute Sunday School decision days and house to house visiting for high pressure pulpit salesmanship by men who know their message and who have the solar light upon their brows.

PROSPECTS OF PEACE

The Kellogg Peace Pact was a year old the 24th of last July. Noting the anniversary, an influential church editor has said: "The people who are bound up with the ideas of a rampant nationalism and those who are sure that human nature never changes and never can be changed, will smile indulgently as they view the treaty in the light of world events" etc.

The second besetment—"sure that human nature never changes"—is almost universal. It is the handicap of facts that instills conservatism into the hopes of the old-style idealist and differentiates him from idealists of the 1930 model.

The editor was correct in saying that the London Naval Conference "considered questions of armament limitation as though war were a normal expectation in the life-history of nations." In this they were unanimous. The nation that would think otherwise, ignoring facts, would be a louse in the woods.

The Paris Peace Pact is the most hopeful peace document the nations have ever produced. It is a great cushion against which people bent on peace may be caught when they lose their balance in a hurdle. But the tortuous way to peace is through the fields of realities, and a march toward that better day must be led by statesmen and seers who will have only facts for their pavements.