



Will Toward Peace

★ PEACE ON EARTH was the promise that sounded through the sky on the first Christmas night, according to the Bible narrative. That to achieve it we must be men of good will is a condition which we are all too prone to forget. Indeed, a more recent translation makes the condition seem even more difficult, for it reads: "Peace on earth to men that are God's friends."

How shall we show ourselves men of good will? How become God's friends?

To act with good will must surely mean that we shall act in accordance with God's will. Any theologian will tell us that. Dispute begins when the theologians proceed to give us their varying formulae for learning what God's will is.

Leaving discussion of such matters to those competent in them, let us see if there is any common ground on the level of the natural world whereon we may grope our own way towards peace. If we accept the dogma that God made the

world, then surely it follows that the normal course of nature is one expression of his will. To act in accordance with that will, thus expressed, man as an inhabitant of the natural world should integrate his life with the general life of his fellow-creatures; in a word, man should become an ecological being.

He should, for example, be content to take what he needs for food and clothing and shelter, neither killing his lesser brethren "just for fun" nor piling up acquisitions in sheer ostentation. He should take care that the trees he cuts down are replaced with others, that the soil he plows and plants is well treated so that it will stay where it is and not flee down gullies or into the wind, that our rivers are made clean homes for fish, not mere giant sewers.

That we are not living as natural men of good will we scarcely need to be told again. We have been exploiters

rather than users, wasters rather than gainers. Arrogating to ourselves the title of lords of the universe, we have behaved in altogether too lordly a manner.

True, in the beginning man was bidden to subdue the earth, and given "dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing." But we have misinterpreted dominion to mean tyranny and wanton waste. The evil consequences of our course, in want and war, are now spread plain before us.

Ecologists, like the prophets of old, tell us these things every day, and make it clear what we can expect if we persist in our stiff-necked selfishness. Like the milder prophets, they also tell us that there is yet time to repent and return to the right path toward peace. There is time, but there is not much time.

Science News Letter, December 20, 1947

MEDICINE

Test for Hypertension

Curing of high blood pressure due to adrenaline-producing tumors will be possible by surgical removal of the growth following diagnosis with this new test.

➤ A NEW test for high blood pressure which gives doctors "the rare opportunity of truly curing" the condition is announced by Drs. Marcel Goldenberg and Henry Aranow, Jr., of New York and Dr. C. Harrison Snyder of Salt Lake City in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* (Dec. 13).

The high blood pressure for which the test was devised is that due to tumors which produce adrenaline, or epinephrine. These tumors may be located on the part of the adrenal glands that normally produces adrenaline, or they may be located elsewhere in the body. Surgical removal of the tumor cures the condition.

A 13-year-old girl and a 42-year-old woman have already been picked out by the test and cured by removal of tumors.

In high blood pressure from this cause, adrenaline is found circulating in the blood. It is the only clinically important high blood pressure known to be due to adrenaline circulating in the blood.

The condition probably occurs more often than is realized. The diagnosis has been difficult to make, because the

symptoms are so much like those of the high blood pressure doctors call "essential" or "malignant." X-rays frequently fail to show the tumor before operation.

The new test for this high blood pressure is made with a relatively new drug, known as 933F. Its chemical name is piperidylmethyl benzodioxane. It was first prepared by Drs. E. Fourneau and D. Bovet of the Pasteur Institute in France.

This new drug blocks the action of adrenaline. When injected into the veins of a patient with high blood pressure, his blood pressure promptly falls if it was high because of adrenaline from the tumor. If his high blood pressure is due to another cause, it goes still higher when 933F is injected. Persons with normal blood pressure also show a heightened blood pressure after injection of 933F.

The effect of 933F on the blood pressure is temporary, lasting about 15 minutes.

Science News Letter, December 20, 1947

If copper or brass strainers are used for citrus or tomato juices the vitamin C content of the juices may be destroyed.

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