

*Healing comes as the
scene shifts into light*

a talk by Beverly Bemis Hawks DeWindt

*Annual Meeting • Sunday, October 27 at 2:30
First Church of Christ, Scientist, San Francisco*

Fern Lodge Focus • September 1996

Preparing to nurse

Christian Science nursing is an individual's practice of Christian Science. To be a Christian Science nurse is to demonstrate the understanding of man's relationship to God in ways that bear witness to the tender care of our Father-Mother for each of His children.

How does a Christian Scientist prepare to work as a nurse? Nursing requires a demonstrable knowledge of the practice of Christian Science. We learn to demonstrate Christian Science only through consecrated prayer and study of the Bible, *Science and Health* and other works by Mrs. Eddy, and by putting what we learn from our prayer and study into practice in daily life.

As our trust in God's healing presence grows stonger we become more receptive to the spiritual messages from Truth and Love that guide us in every human situation. We have the blessed example of Christ Jesus, whose healing works Mrs. Eddy calls ...*the sign of Immanuel, or "God with us,"—a divine influence ever present in human consciousness and repeating itself, coming now as was promised aforetime,*

*To preach deliverance to the captives [of sense],
And recovering of sight to the blind,
To set at liberty them that are bruised.*

Science and Health xi:15

Our Church provides an invaluable aid to help us prepare for the practice—class instruction from an authorized teacher of Christian Science. This provision is an opportunity for all who seek to further their understanding and demonstration of Christian Science.

Christ Jesus' example and the instruction given in the Bible and in Mary Baker Eddy's writings include all that is required of Church members to fulfill the duties and requirements of each office in her Church. Practitioners and nurses need to study, and they need to be conse-

crated metaphysicians, individuals who have experience in practical things, whose faith has been tested by the demands of daily living and who have learned to turn to God for help, knowing the truth of Christ Jesus' statement, *I can of mine own self do nothing.*

Christian Science practitioners and Christian Science nurses prepare for their work in the same way. Both offices require daily prayer, devotion, and consecration to prepare to meet each day's demands. In fulfilling their common duties, there are differences of expression.

It is the task of the practitioner to give specific mental treatment for a patient, to address the patient's thought for the purpose of establishing the truth of health and holiness, uncovering and destroying sickness and sin.

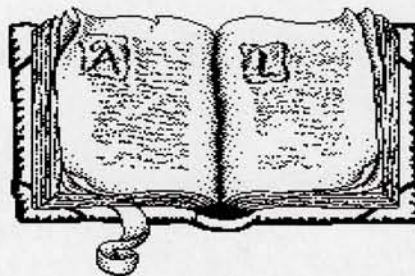
A nurse's work begins with her own thought. Her nursing practice involves receptivity to *Immanuel, or "God with us."* She affirms for herself that Christ, the true idea of man in God's likeness, is present and active in human consciousness. She can be humbly grateful that Christ naturally imparts to those she cares for the truth of God's readiness and ability to heal.

When the nurse is clear in her conviction of Christ's activity this understanding directs her nursing tasks.

Her work is impelled by love and purified by Christ. When the work is rightly done, it is from the standpoint of prayer, claiming the presence of perfection, not just trying to help with a limitation. Then each nursing task is the outcome of the nurse's prayer to see the demonstration of man's freedom from sickness and sin. Nursing tasks must be done well, with grace and poise that deflect attention from the tasks to the spiritual qualities of Mind which give rise to the nurse's performance of them. These tasks offer effective aid in proportion as they are impelled by divine Love.

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Coming in January



A Fern Lodge benefit talk on the Bible

The Sermon on the Mount

will be given by Mary Jane Chapin

Saturday, January 25

9:30 to 3:30

Marines' Memorial Club
609 Sutter Street at Mason
San Francisco, CA

Mary Jane Chapin received a Master of Arts degree from Luther Theological Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota, majoring in both the Old and New Testaments. As a class-taught Christian Scientist she brings a special perspective to the text of the Scriptures. Her 1996 benefit talk for Fern Lodge, *Abraham and Sarah*, was very much appreciated by those who attended.

We hope you will join us next January for Mrs. Chapin's discussion of the *Sermon on the Mount*, about which Mary Baker Eddy wrote, ...our Master's greatest utterance may well be called "the diamond sermon." No purer and more exalted teachings ever fell upon human ears than those contained in what is commonly known as the *Sermon on the Mount*...

Retrospection and Introspection, 91

Further information and a registration form for this program will be in our next *Fern Lodge Focus*.

The impulse which leads one to nurse comes from God, and God provides many ways for us to learn how to care for others. For instance, we learn from our parents how to care for our children. We all care for ourselves every day, and if we think about what is helpful to us, we will see many ways to help others. When we seek to help others our goal will be to stay focused always on God and on those we serve. If we can maintain this focus we will abide in a state of receptivity which brings forth inspired nursing care, for experienced nurses and those just beginning their practice.

Our *Church Manual*, in Article VIII, Section 31, CHRISTIAN SCIENCE NURSE, provides a standard by which members of The Mother Church can judge their readiness and ability to offer nursing care to others. It's clear from the wording of this bylaw that it is each individual's responsibility to represent him or herself as a nurse and to determine when he or she is prepared to do so. This responsibility requires humility and honesty as the nurse answers to herself the questions, *Do I have a demonstrable knowledge of Christian Science practice? Am I demonstrating the practical wisdom necessary in a sick room? Can I take proper care of the sick?* When an individual can honestly answer yes to these questions, she can ethically represent herself as a Christian Science nurse. Her demonstration of her nursing practice will be governed according to the *Church Manual*, and subject to the discipline it includes. She then can apply to list her name in *The Christian Science Journal*.

At Fern Lodge those who wish to develop their God-given nursing abilities work side by side with experienced Christian Science nurses who are demonstrating their nursing practice every day. If you are interested in Christian Science nursing and would like an opportunity to put your love for God and man into practice, please call Pat Alvarez, Director of Nursing, at (510) 886-2448.



We hope you will join us for Fern Lodge's Annual Meeting

Sunday, October 27 at 2:30 in the afternoon

First Church of Christ, Scientist

1700 Franklin Street • San Francisco, California

**Beverley Bemis Hawks DeWindt, CSB of Westlake Village, CA
will speak on the topic**

Healing comes as the scene shifts into light

Mrs. DeWindt is an experienced Christian Science practitioner and an authorized teacher of Christian Science listed in the *Journal*. She is known by the many articles she has written for the Christian Science periodicals.

This meeting will include a message from the Fern Lodge nursing staff and a financial report. Ample parking is available in the parking lot across California Street from the church, and child care will be provided in the Children's Room.

FERN LODGE FOCUS — September 1996

***18457 Madison Avenue
Castro Valley, CA 94546***

Address correction requested

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