

Y. M. C. A.

Howard Gloyd led the best meeting this far this year. His subject was "The Revelation of Good in Nature." Mr. Gloyd is one of the best undergraduate students of natural science (especially Botany and Ornithology) in the state and his talk was well organized and to the point.

The Revelation of God in Nature.

"Realizing the vastness of such a subject as Revelation of God, and recognizing also my own limitations in discussing such a subject, I should not make an attempt to speak of it in all its aspects even if I were scholar enough to do so. What I wish to do is to bring to you a few thoughts on what I would consider the proper attitude of the student, especially the student of natural science, regarding the correlation of science and religion. Just what should we accept and what should we reject in our thinking? To what extent should we accept the opinion of others?

"First of all let us strive to get the truth and all of it. Then, we owe it to ourselves to think independently and form conclusions that are the results of our own effort rather than that of someone else.

"We are told that it is innate in the human soul to seek for an explanation of the 'why' of the universe. Man is continually groping for an answer to that question. He may seek the explanation solely through science; he may seek it solely in religion. Why shouldn't he seek the answer in both fields? Man is by nature religious, we are told. The ancients recognized existence of a god or gods higher than themselves. The Greeks explained the creation and presence of life by the myths and legends which are still well known to us. The American Indian was a nature worshiper. He saw and recognized God in the stars, the sun, the powerful rivers, the mountains; in the lives of the flowers, the insects, and the animals. He could see the how, but not the why. That he realized could be answered only by a being greater than himself, greater than those whom he knew, the Great Spirit, Ruler of All.

"So it is with us. We can study and experiment and see the "how" but not the "why" of life."

Mr. Gloyd gave several good illustrations showing how prejudiced some people were, thinking that science conflicted with the Word of God. He pointed out that they didn't go deep enough to get the real truths and are not willing to accept all truth as God's truth. He also pointed out that it is perfectly proper that man should seek to better understand the method of God's work in this great universe.

"In the midst of the excitement of a court trial, the attorney for the defense address the judge with these words: 'Your honor, your pet bull pup has chewed up the court Bible.' 'Oh, well,' answered the judge, "we can't adjourn court to get a new Bible. Have the witness kiss the dog."

"Many people are like that judge. They will not take time to get the real thing, but are contented with second-hand, substitute information. They are content to kiss the dog.

"A clergyman once talking against the evolution theory not more than a few years ago and in this very vicinity cited the common wild rose as an example of the falsity of the doctrine of evolution. 'Look at the little wild rose,' he said; 'small, pale, almost odorless; a single flower of five petals. It is the same little old wild rose that I used to pick along the roadsides

when I was a boy. If there were anything in the theory of evolution, this little pale prairie flower would be a magnificent double rose by now!"—and he wasn't such a very old man either! Kissing the dog!

"While in a book shop in Kansas City two years ago, I was looking at some copies of Darwin. The lady clerk fell into a discussion of evolution. 'I do not believe it,' said she 'because there is no single case where to my knowledge any organization has bettered its lot or changed its form or structure without the intervention of the hand of man' Any biologist knows that such occurrences actually do come about in both the plant and animal world. Unenlightened again. Kissing the dog

"So it is with the true teaching of evolution. We study science to learn the laws of life. Behind every process, every action of the living organism we recognize the hand of God the Great Master-workman, creator of the universe and the laws by which it operates.

"An ex-criminal, a safe-breaker in the underworld of New York City was once reformed by an old priest and interested in entomology. He collected insects, fed the larvae during the summer months and watched the wonderful metamorphoses in their life histories. He saw the tiny black caterpillar emerge from an egg the size of a pin head, and feed on the leaves of its favorite plants; he saw it cast off its skin in the various moults coming forth each time larger, more powerful more brilliantly colored; he saw it become attached to a branch between two leaves and enclose itself in a fuzzy cocoon of silk produced by its own body and lie dormant all winter; he saw it emerge in the spring, at just the proper time, and sit unfolding and drying its wings in the sunlight; and then he saw it in full glory, indeed a thing of beauty; a Cecropia, perhaps, with the half-moon spots of lighter shades on its great brown velvet wings; or a Luna, with its wonderful soft tint of pale green and transparent wing spots. He saw "how," he knew the "when," but he yet sought the answer for the "why."

"What gets me," he remarked to his friend "is how the moth knows when to come out in the spring. I see how it does it, and what happens then, but what calls it? It's all plain as day but that. It always comes out on just the right day, not in the rain or storm, but in the sunshine when it can unfold and live! I wish I knew!"

"My son," answered the gray haired padre. "some call it Nature, but others call it God!"

"If we study science honestly and open-mindedly, with a desire to learn the truth and all the truth, we can not fail to believe in the existence of a divine guiding hand controlling the miracles of life that we have only to look about us to see. There are variations and peculiar occurrences, it is true, making the study of nature alluring, fascinating, and everlasting, but the great God-given laws of life never change. To my mind the thought of the creation and control of this vast universe, of which we are a part, by means of a system of wonderful and just laws, each coinciding and correlating one with another, as opposed to the idea of our having been cast into space suddenly, promiscuously, and heterogeneous-

ly, makes our God more divine, more wonderful more all-powerful; worthy indeed of the best of our reverence, of our service, and of our lives.

“Let us study science for the truth, for the laws of life, but remember that they are God’s laws, and the more we learn of them, the more we know of Him. We can learn the “how,” but the answer to the “Why” is God ”