



Medical Center at Konnarock Dedicated

By Dr. J. W. Ott

A DAY to be remembered by the Church workers in the mountains and by many of the mountain people is November 3, 1940. It was on this day that the Medical Center, made possible by the Luther League of America and the Board of American Missions, was dedicated. It was a beautiful day with clear skies and bracing air, and the Spirit of Christ, the great Physician, filled us all with joy and deep gratitude, and gave a healing touch to our souls.

At the ringing of the bell at eleven o'clock on Sunday morning the people of the Konnarock section and those from towns round about gathered in St. Matthew's Lutheran Church to give thanks and praise to Almighty God for His answer to the prayers of many years. "Lord of the Church give us a Medical Center and a doctor!" The Rev. Hugh J. Rhyne, D.D., President of Marion College, delivered the dedicatory sermon. His text was, "And they went out to see what it was that was done, and they came to Jesus" (Mark 5:14, 15). At no other service, which the writer has been privileged to attend, was the presence of Jesus so manifest. His Spirit filled the house while the preacher spoke. Rev. W. J. Ducker was the Liturgist and the Rev. Paul M. Kinports, D.D., read a letter from Miss Ida Twedten, our beloved nurse, now on furlough, who was the leading spirit in bringing to the attention of the church this needed institution, a Medical Center with a doctor in it.

Immediately following the church service the congregation repaired to the Medical Center and the service of dedication continued. The Rev. Paul M. Kinports, D.D., Executive Secretary of the Luther League of America, presented the building as a gift of the Luther League of America to the Board of American Missions.

The Rev. John W. Ott, D.D., representative of the Board and acting for the Board, received the building and equipment, and then proceeded with the visiting ministers, Drs. Kinports and Rhyne, Rev. H. Wolff, Rev. W. J. Ducker, and Seminary Graduate Snyder, to dedicate the building to its intended use. At the conclusion of the service all were given the opportunity to inspect the building.

The building of which we are all very proud, is located on a plot of ground near the church on the only highway leading into Konnarock. It is a two-story wooden structure, painted white. On the first floor a waiting room, a doctor's office, operating room, stock-room, X-Ray room, and two rooms with one hospital bed in each to care for emergency cases, and a bathroom for such cases adjoining, also a kitchenette. On the second floor is the living quarters for the physician and his family. The apartment consists of three bedrooms, living room, dining room, and sun parlor, kitchen and bathroom, also a hallway. There are two front entrances, the one to the doctor's office and one to the second floor.

No finer and better equipped Medical Center can be found anywhere in all these mountain regions of Virginia, Tennessee, or Kentucky, thanks to the Luther Leaguers of America.

We have not only a well equipped Medical Center but we have a Christian doctor to occupy it. Thanks to the Board of American Missions, Dr. Heinz Meyer and his beloved wife have few peers in their profession, he as a physician and she as a nurse. Together they will work in the Spirit of Christ as medical missionaries, and how happy they are in their new home.

Other important meetings were held previous to the dedication. On Thursday, October 31st, the Mountain Work Committee of the Board of American Missions was in conference all day with the mountain workers concerning the three-fold phase of our mountain work, visiting our schools, our welfare and medical work, and evangelism in the various parishes and preaching points. These conferences always prove very beneficial to both the Board and the workers on the field.

We appreciated so much the presence of Mrs. W. F. Morehead, representative of the Women's Missionary Society of the U. L. C., and of Dr. Paul A. Kirsch, Assistant Executive Secretary of the Board. Our newly called Board Missionary to this field, the Rev. A. Kenneth Hewitt, was greatly missed, compelled to be absent on account of sickness, and Miss Cora Pearl Jeffcoat of Boone, N. C., also on account of illness. Our prayers are for their speedy recovery.

A Luther League rally was held on the grounds of the Medical Center on Saturday afternoon. Dr. Kinports conducted a service with our local leaguers and friends, which was much enjoyed. In the evening a league party was given at the Konnarock Training School.

On Sunday at 3.00 P. M. a Luther League service was held in the chapel of K. T. S., where more than a hundred leaguers and friends gathered to hear, once more, their beloved secretary, the Rev. Paul Kinports, D.D., and his associate, the Rev. W. J. Ducker. The Rev. Harold Wolff, pastor of the Helton Parish, conducted the service.

In conclusion, our mountain workers desire to thank all who came. Indeed it seemed as if the whole church had put its arms about us and loved us into a fuller consecration to Christ and His Church.

"Just Set"

A man who does not like work very well was asked how he managed to spend his time. "Well," he said, "some days I just set and think, and other days I just set."

A great many people "just set" without thinking. Mental laziness is fatal to all growth. Many people never think down deeply into any subject. They just browse around on the surface. They never have trained themselves to concentrate vigorously, to hold the mind tenaciously upon one subject; their thinking is of the hop-skip-and-jump order. This desultory surface mulling sort of brain action is not real thinking. To really think, we must focus the mind upon one subject and hold it there.

One reason why the majority of people lead such superficial lives is because their minds are not trained to think deeply and broadly. They do not go far enough into subjects to get a comprehensive view of them. Their thinking is so superficial that their whole lives are shallow.

It does not matter how good a brain one has, before it can accomplish anything worth while, it must be trained until concentration becomes an automatic habit.

MOVING

One of our youngest missions recently bought a lot with a house and garage. The pastor, using the house for a parsonage, assisted by the men of the congregation, raised local donations, and with voluntary labor erected a temporary building for church services. Missionary Hrdlicka writes concerning their *Moving Day*:

"On September 28, 1940, the Prince of Peace congregation at Binghamton, New York, moved. The people of the congregation did all the work. The time appointed was 10.00 A. M., but at 8.00 A. M. a councilman knocked at the parsonage door. He carried over his shoulder two new wine-colored kneeling cushions which had been donated by two of the members for use at communion. At once work was started on the garage, which was cleared of all rubbish and wood so it might be used for a storehouse. The missionary having no car to worry about, the garage is at the congregation's disposal. More members gathered. Then began a general clean-up. Rubbish was gathered and burned, shrubs and weeds were uprooted, banks were graded, and other eye-sores were cleared away. One of the men, in the meantime, had cleaned the outside of the windows of our new, temporary church. You never saw such hustling. This may sound like clean-up day, but we also moved.

"While we busied ourselves here, another group was stationed at the rented store, where we held our last service on September 22, 1940. All church property was loaded on a coal truck, loaned by one of our members for this occasion. The truck arrived, and into the new building we marched. Three trips in the truck were necessary. (Don't let anyone tell you a piano is light!)

"When all the church equipment was finally inside the new but temporary church home, the ladies went into action. Chairs were cleaned and dusted, inside of the windows were washed, and a general cleaning accomplished. On her knees, one of the ladies dusted the floor, which had just been completed that morning. Lutherans in action, not only in words, were here. All this seems so simple when you read it in type, but believe me, these people worked!

"It was well worth the effort. The Sunday school children appreciated their new home. It was, indeed, a Rally Day, for on September 29, 1940, sixty-two attended our morning service. We worshiped in spirit and in truth to the glory of God, whom we thank for the privilege of preserving and extending the Kingdom."

ABOUT CATHOLICS AND PROTESTANTS. Father Joseph Huselein, S.J., the general editor of an important series of Catholic books, expresses this thought in the Foreword to the latest Catholic life of Luther: "New problems are confronting us, and a new division of spirits is taking place among the peoples of the earth. No longer are Catholics and Protestants facing each other in the embattled field as in the endless wars that followed on the breaking up of Christian unity in the Western World; but instead, religion of whatever kind today stands confronted by the alert, organized, and highly militant forces of atheistic action. With exalted lip service to democracy, and under the disguise of the United Popular Front, Communism everywhere begins its work, until it can safely cut off the sheep's clothing assumed by it, and act in its own true nature. In Russia, Mexico, and Spain—to proceed no further—we have beheld it indifferent to the shedding of a veritable deluge of human blood in its relentless efforts to obliterate at all costs the very name of God from the mind and heart of men.