



By William Keir

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# Present Truth

# Has Noah's Ark Been Found?



Coming out of the ark Noah and his family behold the rainbow of promise.

IN 1941 and 1942 various religious papers printed articles concerning the supposed finding of Noah's Ark.

In substance the story was as follows: A Russian aviator by the name of Roskovitsky, who, with his companion was stationed on an airfield near Mt. Ararat just before the Russian Revolution, was given a plane with a new supercharger to make some altitude tests. After climbing to fourteen thousand feet and levelling off to become adjusted to the altitude he saw ahead of him the snow-capped peak of Ararat some three thousand feet above him. Having heard that it had never been scaled since 700 B.C. he set out toward it. In circling the crystal white dome he slid down the south side of the mountain and saw below him a glacial lake and the old hulk of a ship which upon further investigation by special companies of soldiers sent out by the Czar was found to be Noah's Ark.

Some time later several of the periodicals which had reproduced the story printed retractions of it and little more was heard of it until in March, 1945, the story reappeared in a Canadian publication with the following additions:

First, in 1883 violent earthquakes were supposed to have dis-

lodged huge cakes of ice from the very summit of Ararat and residents of the district had seen the ship protruding from one of these blocks.

Second, an "Archdeacon, Nouri of Jerusalem and Babylon," had

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## By Lynn H. Wood

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later climbed to the place of discovery, examined the vessel, and made a statement to the effect that this was surely the Ark of Noah.

Recognizing the remarkableness of such a discovery, were it a fact, an attempt has been made to check the accuracy of various statements made in the story in its two forms with the following results:

1. It is stated in the account printed in *The Defender of the Faith*, October, 1942, that the discovery was made "in the days just before the Russian Revolution." Inasmuch as the Russian Revolution took place in March, 1917, and the author of the story states that the time of his discovery was in August it would date the incident at least to August, 1916. He goes on to say that the time was in August, a very hot season, and how they

longed for some of the snow they saw on the peak of Ararat. "Then the miracle happened. The captain walked in and announced that plane number seven had its supercharger installed and was ready for altitude tests." *The New International Encyclopedia*, Volume 1, page 185, dates the experiments with superchargers in aircraft to a period about five years later, on September 28, 1921, when Lt. McCready at Dayton, Ohio, flew to 37,800 feet with a plane equipped with a supercharger.

2. The story goes on: "Needless to say, we wasted no time in getting on our parachutes, strapping on our oxygen cans and doing all the half dozen other things that have to be done before going up." Concerning the use of parachutes, the fourteenth Edition of *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, Volume 17, page 252, states that during the last days of the war in 1918 German aviators were known frequently to use them, but after the war there was little done to complete the use of parachutes until about 1921 when British and American aviators began experimenting with a parachute that could be conveniently carried by a pilot. It is well known that oxygen cans were not used by aviators to any extent until experiments began in high altitude flying after World War I.

3. The story goes on to say, "As I looked down at the great stone battlements surrounding the lower part of this mountain I remembered having heard that it had never been climbed since the year 700 B.C." *The Eleventh Edition of Encyclopædia Britannica*, Volume 2, page 320, lists eleven different dates from 1829 to 1893 when parties climbed Ararat.

4. Turning now to the re-told story in *Magazine Digest*, March 1945, we read: "Even though in its present location the Ark was sealed in a solid preserving coating of ice for ten months in the year, the thawing and weathering for even two months of every twelve would long since have rotted the hulk into nothingness. But old residents explained that in 1883 violent earthquakes had dislodged huge blocks of ice from the very summit of Ararat. And from one of these blocks, wondering mountaineers have seen this hull protruding, one late summer when the brief 'summer' came." At the present time there is no indication or record of any earthquake as mentioned here. There was some tradition that an earthquake in 1840 caused a precipitous fall of rock which destroyed a village at the base of the mountain. But even this evidence is not satisfactory. (See *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Eleventh Edition, Volume 2, page 320.)

5. Lastly, this article says: "Another remarkable confirmation came later from Archdeacon Nouri of Jerusalem and Babylon, a learned and noted traveller. After exploring along the Euphrates, he reached Mt. Ararat and with his guides and associates, climbed to the resting place of the Ark. After thoroughly examining the vessel, he pronounced: 'I am very positive we are beholding the Ark of Noah.'" An examination of the year books of the church of England from 1942 back indicates that there was the office of Archdeacon for Palestine, Syria, and Trans-Jordania from 1926 to the present, but this Archdeacon's office did not include the district of Babylon, and furthermore the names of the men who have received the appointment of Archdeacon are

all thoroughly English names, the last two being Stewart and Maxwell. Before 1926 this office was non-existent. There is, according to the Catholic University, no such office in either the Greek or Roman Church.

The above information is sufficient, I am sure, to convince any reader of the falsity of such a report concerning the Ark. Inasmuch as the top of Mt. Ararat

is perpetual snow, the movement of these ice fields down the side of the mountain would be such as would expose anything embedded in the ice during the centuries since the Ark first rested on dry ground. It would seem very inadvisable to accept this sensational story and give it publicity until it has been well authenticated by scientific archaeological research.

## Life's Patterns

By Nora Buckman

IN a mountain valley a tiny old lady lives in an equally tiny unpainted house. You would never know that you can buy eggs, butter, milk, and fresh vegetables there, because there is no sign to tell passers-by about them; yet the old lady can rarely supply the demand.

Once she was asked, "How do people know you have these things for sale?"

With a pert little smile she replied, "Well, mostly they didn't know right off. But when they're drivin' by they see my flowers, the brakes go on, and they stop. Then they come in to ask questions, and I tell 'em what I've got."

Without advertising or any outward attempt to make money, the little woman did a fine business and could have done more. How did she do it? She kept her flowers so beautiful and carefully tended that passers-by simply had to stop and admire them.

I've been thinking that that is a pretty good way to let others know of the wonderful Gospel we have. Not by a flower garden, perhaps—though that might be a way—but by our appearance or by some of the things we do. For instance, there was a business man who was not a preacher in any sense of the word. He never made loud acclaims of what he

thought was right or wrong, or, in fact, said much to anyone. But after they had been around him a while people soon learned that he really had something they wanted.

One day he was hurrying for his train. Some thoughtless person just ahead of him had barged by in great haste and knocked over the little fruit stand kept by a very ragged youngster. Apples and oranges scattered hither and yon. The poor little boy tearfully looked at his treasures. The somebody who had upset the cart didn't stop even to say "I'm sorry." Maybe he didn't realize what he had done. We'll just say "maybe." But the business man took it all in at a glance and started picking up the fruit and wiping it carefully with his spotless handkerchief. At last the fruit was all back in the little cart, not much the worse for wear. Our business man was about to hurry on again when the wee lad touched his sleeve timidly and, looking ever so gratefully into his face, uttered these words: "Mister, you remind me more of God than anybody I know."

Even if you never say much about it, do your associates know that you have something worth while that they could use? Are people attracted to Christ because of the way you live? It is worth thinking about.

WE should have a lively interest to-day in the record books that are kept in heaven, for everyone's name is written in one or more of those great books.

God's angels, who are "all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation" (Heb. 1:14), watch us, and know all that we do and say; it is they who keep the record books.

#### The "Birth Book"

First the birthplace is recorded: "The Lord shall count, when He writeth up the people, that this man was born there." Psa. 87:6.

It is not strange that our heavenly Father should keep a birth record of His family. He knows us and our names from the beginning of time. (Ezek. 18:4; Eph. 1:4, 5; Psa. 139:16.)

More than one hundred and fifty years before the birth of Cyrus, king of Persia, the Lord called his name, and told him, through Isaiah, of the work he was to do for Him. (Isa. 45:1-6.) Long before Jeremiah was born the Lord had ordained him a prophet unto the nations. (Jer. 1:5.) And, through the prophets, He said of John the Baptist, about seven hundred years before his birth, that he would prepare the way before Christ. He also told his father, Zacharias, that this child should be named John. (Isa. 40:3; Mal. 3:1-3; Luke 1:13.)

#### The Book of Life

There is also the wonderful "book of life" where the names of all who have been *born again* are written. (Phil. 4:3; Luke 10:20.) Jesus said to Nicodemus: "Except a man be born again, . . . born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit." John 3:3-6.

We of the flesh are told: "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." Acts 2:38. When we have done this, we have been

born again; "born of water and of the Spirit," and our names are written in the book of life, and we belong to Christ; "and they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit." Gal. 5:24, 25.

We have nothing to say about our names' being written in God's records of natural births, but it is for us to choose whether or not our names are written in the book of life. It is a precious privilege to be one whose name is written in that book.

#### Privileges of the "Saints"

Such a one is the son of God and a member of the household of God. (1 John 3:2; Eph. 2:19.)

He is an heir of God, and joint heir with Christ. (Rom. 8:17.)

He is a member of the body of Christ, the true church of God. "There is one body, and one Spirit; . . . one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all." Heb. 12:23; Eph. 4:4-6.

He is a commandment-keeper. He does not wilfully break even "one of these least commandments," or teach others to break them. (Matt. 5:19.)

He has an angel guard. (Psa. 34:7.)

He is delivered from worshipping "the beast." (Rev. 13:8.)

He is delivered from the "time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time." Dan. 12:1.

He seeks "first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness," and all necessary things are given to him by his heavenly Father. (Matt. 6:25-34.)

He is blessed of the Lord, and shall prosper in whatsoever he does because he delights in doing God's will at all times and under all circumstances. (Psa. 1.)

His prayers are heard in heaven because he keeps the commandments of God; and he may ask what he will, and it shall be done unto him. (John 14:14, 15; 1 John 3:22; Psa. 34:15, 17.) But if he turns away his ear from hearing God's law, his prayers become an abomination. (Prov. 28:9.)

# THE B

OF

# HEA

By Lucretia

He is able "to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked." Eph. 6:16.

He is given power over unclean spirits, "and over all the power of the enemy." Luke 10:19.

He receives from God the gift of eternal life. (Rom. 6:23.)



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When he dies, the Lord goes with him through the valley of the shadow of death. (Psa. 23:4.)

At the second coming of Christ he is resurrected with all the saints of God and caught up to meet his Lord in the air, and with them he enters the New



Jerusalem through the gates of pearl, to be for ever with his Lord. There he eats of the tree of life and drinks of the water of life. (1 Thess. 4:14-17; Rev. 21:24-27; 22:14, 17.)

His name will never be blotted out of the book of life. He "shall be clothed in white raiment," and Jesus "will confess his name" before His Father and before His angels. (Rev. 3:5.)

He receives an inheritance in the new earth, where all the righteous "build houses, and inhabit them," and where "they shall not labour in vain, nor bring forth for trouble; for they are the seed of the blessed of the Lord, and their offspring with them." Matt. 5:5; Isa. 65:21-25.

We cannot begin to enumerate the blessings that will be bestowed upon all whose names are not blotted out of the book of life. Jesus says to us: "Rejoice, because your names are written in heaven." Luke 10:20. Surely one whose name is written in the blessed book should rejoice always.

#### Take Heed!

However, let us not feel too sure that we shall enter the kingdom of heaven because our names are written in the book of life; for a sad thing may occur. Many who have accepted Christ, have, like Lot's wife, longed for Sodom, and have turned back to serve the prince of this world. In the day of judgment, if they have not returned to the fold of Christ, their names will be blotted out of the book of life. "Whosoever hath sinned against Me, him will I blot out of My book." Exod. 32:33.

There is also a book where our sins are all written down, for the Lord says: "Though thou wash thee with nitre, and take thee much soap, yet thine iniquity is marked before Me." "The sin of Judah is written with a pen of iron, and with the point of a diamond." Jer. 2:22; 17:1.

Only the blood of Jesus can

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*In the books of heaven an unerring account of every life is recorded awaiting the great judgment day.*

wash away our sins. Only through Him can we be overcomers and receive all the blessings of His saints. We, like David, should pray: "Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Thy loving-kindness; according unto the multitude of Thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions." Psa. 51:1.

The Lord answers: "I, even I, am He that blotteth out thy transgressions for Mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins." Isa. 43:25.

#### God's Book of Remembrance

Yet another book, the book of remembrance, is kept in heaven. The Lord says of it: "They that feared the Lord spake often one to another: and the Lord hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before Him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon His name. And they shall be Mine, saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up My jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him." Mal. 3:16, 17.

Daniel was given a vision of the solemn and final judgment scene. He saw the Ancient of Days seated on His throne. "Thousand thousands ministered unto Him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened." Dan. 7:10.

To John a similar scene was shown, for he told how at last the dead, raised in the second resurrection, both "small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works." Rev. 20:12.

All are to be judged by the law. (Rom. 2:12; James 2:12.) The eternal law of God that was engraved on two tables of stone with His own finger, and kept in the ark of the temple of God in heaven, is to be the standard of the judgment. (Exod. 24:12; Rev. 11:19.)

We can now almost feel the  
(Continued on page 6.)

**I**N Paul's epistle to the Galatians, we come face to face with this question and see the justice of the divine economy. "Do not deceive yourselves," says the apostle, "God is not to be scoffed at. For whatsoever a man sows, that he will also reap, he who sows in the field of his lower nature, will from that nature reap destruction, but he who sows to serve the Spirit will from the Spirit reap the life of the Ages." Gal. 6:7, 8. (Weymouth.) Do not deceive yourselves! It is not in any way an arbitrary choice on the part of God that a man is saved or lost; it is rather the law of the universe, of nature, that in the physical and in the spiritual, as a man sows, so shall he reap.

Lightfoot comments thus: "If you plant the seed of your own selfish desires, if you sow in the world of the flesh, then when you garner in your harvest you will find the ears blighted and rotten; but if you sow in the good ground of the Spirit, you will of that good ground, gather the golden grain of eternal life."

Yes, the justice of the divine economy requires that a man bear the consequences of his own choice. God speaks to men through His servants, giving cautions and warnings, rebuking sin, pointing out error, directing the heart and mind to the Way, the Truth, and the Life. He gives to each an opportunity to correct errors before they become fixed in the character, but if one refuses correction, divine power does not interpose to counteract the tendency of one's own action. Here is the divine law in operation. By each refusal to correction and to walk in light, the heart is hardened and the rejection of light places the individual where a far stronger influence will be ineffectual to make an abiding impression. In God's law of nature effect follows cause with unerring certainty; the reaping will testify as to what the sowing has been. So in the spiritual world, every seed produces a harvest of its kind. If we allow the seeds of truth and light to take

# Can a Man Outwit God?

By H. T. Johnson

root in the heart, the harvest is Life. Conversely, everyone who is destroyed will have destroyed himself. Everyone who stifles the admonition of conscience is sowing the seeds of unbelief and that will produce a sure and like harvest.

For example, by rejecting the first warnings from God, Pharaoh of Egypt sowed the seeds of obstinacy and he reaped obstinacy. God did not compel him to disbelieve. Actually, God gave Pharaoh the most striking evidence of divine power through His servants Moses and Aaron; but he stubbornly refused to heed the light. Thus his resistance continued until he looked upon a devastated land and upon the cold, dead form of his first-born—and finally all the might of Egypt was lost in the Red Sea. The history of Pharaoh is a fearful illustration of the truth of the words, "Whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap."

Job, that patriarch of ancient days, lays stress on the same principle: "They that plough iniquity, and sow wickedness, reap the same." Job 4:8. Can a man outwit God? No! By our actions, our words, our attitude to the divine call of God, we are sowing seed. We may make a very convincing profession and declare our piety from the housetops, to an extent that we not only "pull wool" over the eyes of others to deceive them, but we

even deceive ourselves. But not so God; you cannot outwit God!

Hear the divine, unalterable law of God in His relationship to the whole universe. Every man and woman must take the sickle and mow down the crop his own hand has sown! That law is inexorable. Paul again emphasizes this truth in Romans 8:13: "For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die, but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live." How a d a m a n t, how irreversible, is that law.

The call of the prophet Hosea brought to God's ancient people a gleam of hope in the midst of despair: "Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the Lord, till He come and rain righteousness upon you." Hosea 10:12. The eternal law which makes reaping a consequence to sowing, still and always will apply.

Dear reader, let us break up the fallow ground of our heart and seek the Lord. Sow in righteousness, seek His will, and do it, and then when we put in the sickle the harvest will be eternal life.

"Sow flowers and flowers will blossom  
Around you wherever you go,  
Sow weeds and of weeds reap the harvest  
You'll reap whatsoever you sow.

"Sow blessings and blessings will ripen;  
Sow hatred and hatred will grow.  
Sow mercy and reap sweet compassion,  
You'll reap whatsoever you sow."

## The Books of Heaven

(Continued from page 5.)

solemn silence of this great judgment day, as all stand before God waiting to hear their names called and their sentence pronounced.

Then many, "the number of whom is as the sand of the sea," have their names blotted out of the books. (Rev. 20:8.) Those who had belonged to churches will begin to weep in bitter anguish, while hardened sinners,

who have always rejected Christ, will gnash their teeth in anger as this judgment day comes to a close.

Think seriously about these books of heaven. Remember that God is keeping an accurate re-

cord of all you do and say, even "every idle word." Remember that you will have to meet this record in the judgment, and keep your sins confessed and forgiven. Above all, make sure your name is written in the book of life.

## Kindness Repaid

THERE was once a little old lady. She was very poor. She was very wise. All who lived near her came to talk to her about their troubles. They knew she was never too busy to hear them, and they always left feeling lots better for having talked to her. Whether she could solve their problems or not, she would tell them of God and how kind and understanding He was and how easy it was to take their burdens to Him.

She was never too tired to help every stray dog or cat or a hungry child.

One day the little old lady's house was burnt down with everything she had in the world in it. She wondered where she could turn. It wasn't long until every one she had ever helped came to her bringing her the very best that they had. Warm blankets, food, and furniture was brought so she should start keeping house again.

There was not one among them who wouldn't be proud to take her into their home and give her the best they had, but she didn't want to be a bother. She started keeping house in two little rooms and was even kinder and sweeter than ever. She thanked God every day for the many blessings she received. That is a story of kindness and how being kind can help every one.  
—Betty Lou Andrews.

## Results of Competition No. 9

*Prize-winner*.—Joan Wheeler, 107 Lyham Road, Brixton, London, S.W.2. Age 12.

*Honourable Mention*.—Molly Rich (Launceston); Lawrence Read (Watford); Barbara Barnes (Hawarden); Linda Sharp (Lynton); John Rich (Launceston).

## OUR CHILDREN'S CORNER

My Dear Sunbeams,

HAVE you ever watched a wood-carver choose his piece of wood when he wants to make something beautiful—something that will last for a long time? If you have, you will have noticed how very particular he is as he makes his choice.

"That won't do," he says, as he picks up a piece and examines it. "It's much too soft and would last no time.

"Ah, here is the very thing," he cries, "this, surely, is hard enough."

He turns it over and over and examines it carefully and a look of disappointment comes over his face. "I nearly missed these tiny holes," he mutters, "but it seems to me the wood-worm has got into this piece of wood and before very long it will be so rotten that it will fall to pieces. No, I cannot make anything of that." And the wood is cast aside.

He goes on searching until he finds just what he wants. A lovely, hard piece of wood without a flaw, and he sets to work to make the beautiful article that will one day find a place in some beautiful home.

Jesus, the Master Carver, wants to make beautiful things, too. And He must have the right kind of material. Do you know where He

hopes to find it? Why, among the boys and girls on this old earth!

When He looks at us I wonder if He is satisfied or disappointed?

Does He find flaws in us where we have allowed the nasty little worms of envy, jealousy, greed, selfishness, and bad temper to eat into our hearts?

Or does He see boys and girls with strong, fearless hearts who shun everything that is evil and wrong? Boys and girls who keep their hearts pure and clean, avoiding everything that would hinder them from becoming the kind of material that He can carve into a really beautiful character?

I do hope that every one of us will be found in this class and that Jesus will be able to make our lives so beautiful that we will be given an honoured place in the beautiful home He is preparing for His faithful children.

Yours affectionately,  
AUNTIE INA.

Paint this picture and send it to Auntie Ina, The Stanborough Press Ltd., Watford, Herts., with your name, age, and address not later than August 8th.



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#### "FOOL'S PURGATORY"

ADDRESSING the recent Congregational Union Assembly, the new president, the Rev. F. Chalmers Rogers said:

"Many who once lived in a fool's paradise have exchanged it now for a fool's purgatory. The hearts of men are very fearful, camouflage how they may."

#### MORAL REGENERATION IMPERATIVE

"EXCEPT for moral regeneration throughout the world," declared General Eisenhower in a recent speech, "there is no hope for us, and we are going to disappear one day in the dust of an atomic explosion."

#### POPE SHOWS HIS HAND

ROME has always claimed the right to instruct its adherents in political matters. Never, however, has the Pope intervened so openly as in the recent French and Italian elections. On the eve of the poll, Pius XII broadcast a message obviously intended to lead Roman Catholics in the two countries to vote against the Communist and Socialist parties. The result was a victory for the Catholic M.R.P. party in France and an even more decisive triumph for the Christian Democrats in Italy.

#### CATHOLICS LEAD IN SEVEN COUNTRIES

"WITH the success of the Christian Democrats in Italy and the M.R.P. in France," declares the *Universe*, "Catholics now lead in the political field in seven nations or political areas in Europe—Italy, France, Holland, Bel-

gium, Austria, Southern Germany, and Luxembourg." To this list, of course, must also be added the well-established Catholic regimes in Spain and Portugal.

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#### A QUIET MOMENT

### *Forgiveness for Indifference*

TO-DAY, O Lord, we bow the knee remembering Thy majesty; we leave the things of time and sense acknowledging our negligence in seeking Thy most blessed face and more of Thy renewing grace. We fail to hear Thy Spirit's call and wonder why so oft we fall, for left alone we strive in vain, the victory o'er sin to gain. Forgive, dear Lord, our waywardness as we our sins to Thee confess and with Thy blood before the throne do Thou for every wrong atone, that we before our God might stand meeting Thy law's express demand, clothed in Thy righteousness complete, perfect in Thee, we now entreat. Grant this our prayer as now we pray and give us victory to-day.

STANLEY COMBRIDGE.

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#### DANGER OF FATAL BREACH

"WHAT is clear," asserts the *Manchester Guardian*, "is that relations between the Big Three have now reached a perilous stage and only a great effort of statesmanship can avoid a fatal breach."



#### ARAB POLICY DECISIVE

"AMONG the many immediate problems which are facing Great Britain in the stabilization of her post-war policy, that of the Arab States is playing an increasingly important part," writes Brigadier J. G. Frere in the *Spectator*. "It is possible that the future history of the British Empire may, in the end, depend more on its Arab policy now than on any other single factor."

#### "MISERABLE" DEAN

DEAN INGE has been called the "gloomy dean." The Rev. H. B. Tower, Rural Dean of Bishop's Stortford, is qualifying for the title of the "miserable dean" by remarking at a recent deanery conference: "We cannot feel anything but miserable over the attendance at our Sunday services. I would not altogether say the church is dying. I would rather say the church is sick unto death."

#### A SINISTER NOAH'S ARK

"A SPECTRE ship, a sinister Noah's ark," writes Harold Nicholson in the *Spectator*, "is ploughing toward the Pacific freighted with pigs and goats and guinea-pigs, intended victims of the latest atomic bomb."

#### SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP NEEDED

"THE world to-day has need of spiritual leadership, and we who seek to serve our generation in Government know well the need we have of you who serve in churches," Mr. Atlee declared at a meeting of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.