

Excerpts from a talk by Paul Stark Seeley, C.S.B.

of Portland, Oregon

At the Arden Wood Benevolent Association
Annual Meeting, September 24, 1978

A member of our Arden Wood family recalled attending this last public talk given by Mr. Seeley. You can read the full story on page 3. Paul's wife, Vernita Seeley, was Arden Wood's first interior decorator and set a standard of quality Arden Wood has aspired to maintain ever since.

I have been very much impressed by the excellent reports we have heard about the splendid work that is going on at Arden Wood. I'm sure it really is one of the clear-cut evidences of what Christian Science accomplishes in action.

I sometimes feel that we don't realize the great privilege that is ours. Here we have through the greatness and the love of our Leader and of many workers before her, including the Master, the hope of the world.

Where can you find any hope apart from the revelation, which is freely providing for everyone who is willing to study it and utilize it, is willing to show the open way to heaven and immortality?

The Master saw that the most important thing for him to teach and to demonstrate was the ability of God to heal man of anything, of everything.

And Christian Science, as we have seen by the excellent reports that you have been hearing, is here to show the world that the need for this type of healing has been found.

Our Leader says something that she wanted every Christian Scientist to think about and to do something about in his own thinking. It is found on page 367 of *Science and Health*. There she says, "The infinite Truth of the Christ-cure has come to this age through a 'still, small voice,' through silent utterances and divine anointing which quicken and increase the beneficial effects of Christianity" (*Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, 367:24-27).

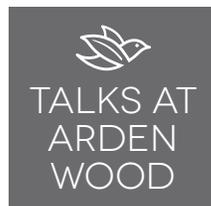
Have you ever thought of our Leader and her years of devotion to the basic spiritual facts of being until she was chosen to be the Discoverer-Founder-Leader of Christian Science? She prayed and prayed and prayed...and she heard the still, small voice. She knew she was the one of the Father's choosing to give to mankind and to indicate the footsteps that the honest, sincere worker for a better sense of existence must take to fulfill his God-appointed destiny.

What is the God-appointed destiny of you and me? Of course, it's to be what the great I AM has made us to be. To gain the understanding of Truth which Jesus referred to when he said; "Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32).

The still, small voice — what is it? Where is it? How do you and I find it — find that it provides the answers for everything? It provides the answer for the nature of God and the nature of man that God is forever making. It provides the guidance and protection and inspiration.

So, we have much to be grateful for. But also, we have the grandest of opportunities. Mrs. Eddy has said: "We are all capable of more than we do" (*Science and Health*, 89:21-22).

We have a textbook of about 700 pages. How much do you and I know of those 700 pages? Yet, that is the gift of God, and it's here to bring spiritual enlightenment to everyone who is willing and honest in his desire to contribute what the world



simply has to have, to find the freedom that is in God, in the immortality of man.

Jesus proved the immortality of man. He had nothing to work with but ideas, the same as you and I have. And he healed every kind of disease that was brought to his attention and did it quickly. Why? Because he found what Mrs. Eddy calls over and over again “the spiritual idea.”

How much do you and I know about the spiritual idea? It’s simply — no mystery about it — it’s simply the true idea of cause and effect, because the Master said that: “God is (a) Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and truth” (John 4:24). We say that over and over again, and then, most of the time we seem to forget it.

In the textbook (*Science and Health* 496:15) Mrs. Eddy says: “Hold perpetually this thought, — that it is the spiritual idea, the Holy Ghost and Christ, which enables you to demonstrate, with scientific certainty, the rule of healing, based upon its divine Principle, Love, underlying, overlying, and encompassing all true being.”

Look yourself over, and as you study and as you pray — get some clearer realization that the only reason you exist is to be the individual evidence of Mind, of Spirit, of Truth and the Love that is the one and only eternal God.

It’s a great thing you know — to discover that God can be talked to, and that God is able to talk to those who honestly seek Him. Why? How could there be an eternal God who couldn’t have continuous ability to be in constant communication with His every child, every hour, everywhere?

Mrs. Eddy has admonished us that we must, if we’re ever going forward, become more fully, thoroughly conscious, of the simple fact that there can be but one Mind, one intelligence. How can you imagine basic intelligence being capable of being divided up into many minds?

The power of thought is the greatest power on earth. Nothing can compete with it. And you and I are made of our intelligent source to inherit the life, to utilize it, not selfishly, not willfully, but unselfishly, for the good of one and all.

Are we growing into a greater willingness to be and to think what the great I AM is making us to be — the child of the One and Only?

I know perfectly well that no one changes from a bad or middle standard sort of a mortal into the Son of God overnight. But it’s a great project to have something to do with the coming of immortality. The greatest opportunity for anyone on earth.

I’ve been a great admirer of the Master for years.... He had a wonderful over-all conception of what was to take place in the world, and he saw that there had to be a division — by each individual — between the things of the world and the things of the Spirit.

Jesus...near the end of his ministry...said: “I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now” (John 16:12) and “I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter” (John 14:16).

Mrs. Eddy says that she understands that the Comforter is Christian Science. God has fulfilled His promise. Let us do more to fulfill our part to God, to our Leader, and to all mankind. 🍃

My Favorite Arden Wood Memory

By Richard J. Horner, Laguna Hills, CA

I have many favorite Arden Wood memories I could share. Every time I stay there as a Rest & Study guest, I come away with new and fresh inspiration to put into practice in my life. I also love constantly running into old friends and meeting new ones with every visit to Arden Wood (I had three different visits there last year.)

But my favorite and obviously most memorable was Arden Wood's Annual Meeting on September 24th, 1978 at my own church, Fourth Church in Oakland, which is now long torn down. It sat on the east side of Lake Merritt and seated 1,400 people, making it the largest branch church in the Bay Area. That day Arden Wood invited Mr. Paul Stark Seeley, CSB to address the Annual Meeting. 1,700 people were in attendance that Sunday afternoon at my church. They sat in the lobby, lined the walls, standing along the side aisles, and filled our Sunday School auditorium in great anticipation of hearing every word this metaphysical giant had to share with us from his lifetime of living his Christ Office and having just finished teaching his 60th and final Primary Class on Christian Science. He taught my own Primary Class teacher in the 1961 Normal Class, so I was especially eager to hear what Mr. Seeley had to say to all of us. I was young and a new Christian Science nurse, and I was hungry to learn of the



deeper things of God. Mr. Seeley was helped up to the platform of the auditorium by his good friend and the Chairman of the Arden Wood Board of Trustees, Mr. James Reed, CS, of San Francisco.

Jim Reed was a big wig practitioner and was very close to Mr. Seeley. He drove a forest green 1965 Mercedes convertible — funny the details I remember! He introduced me to Mr. Seeley that day. I was the Christian Science nurse on a case once in Carmel in 1979, and Jim was the practitioner. He INSTANTLY HEALED my patient while they were talking on the phone!

Mr. Seeley spoke to us for 35 minutes. He spoke to us of the need to "peck open our shells" and to work out our own salvation. He told us that a chick has to peck open its own shell 10,000 times on his own; that the mother chick cannot help, or the little chick will not survive. We each need to work out our own salvation. I still have the highlights of that address that Arden Wood sent out to us (see preceeding talk). It was his last public address.

In more recent years, I have treasured many fine walks, some with dear friends, some on my own, in your lovely garden given by Gerri Mott. What a diamond that spot is!

These are a few of my favorite things! 🌿

Arden Wood Contact Information

Rest & Study and Overnight Stays

reservations@ardenwood.org

(800) 767-0003

Arden Wood offers guest rooms for Rest & Study and overnight stays for Christian Scientists in an environment ideal for spiritual renewal, inspiration, and healing in the heart of San Francisco. Come for a visit!

Residential Programs

Diane Speer, Director

dspeer@ardenwood.org

(415) 379-2320

THE RESIDENCES AT ARDEN WOOD

Gracious studio and one-bedroom apartments are available to Christian Scientists in a vibrant and dynamic, inspiring and healing atmosphere. Meals, housekeeping, transportation and a wide range of activities are all included.

SHELTERED CARE

Sheltered Care is for those who need light assistance with personal care and daily activities while maintaining their expression of dominion and independence. There is an expectation of full healing without a time limit on the length of one's stay.

Christian Science Nursing Services

Lesleah De Frisco, Director

ldefrisco@ardenwood.org

(415) 379-2224

Christian Science nurses are available round-the-clock to provide exceptional care in private rooms with comfortable, modern amenities. Patients must work daily with a Journal-listed Christian Science practitioner.

Visiting Christian Science

Nursing Service (VCSNS)

Aïcha Langel, Director

vcsns@ardenwood.org

(415) 740-0460

VCSNS provides assistance in the home, workplace or other venue for up to 2 hours per visit. Visiting Christian Science nurses will assess care needs as well as provide care and support to patients, new moms, or anyone who would benefit from a care visit.

Christian Science Nursing Arts Training (CSNA)

Yvonne Renoult, Registrar

yrenoult@ardenwood.org

(415) 379-2220

CSNA training is available to Christian Scientists who wish to pursue the role of Christian Science Nurse, as outlined in the Church Manual By-law (Article VIII, Section 31). Our multi-year program includes classroom work and mentoring from highly skilled, Journal-listed Christian Science nurses. Arden Wood trainees are paid and receive full employee benefits.

Personnel and Support Services

Franklin Harris, Director

fharris@ardenwood.org

(415) 379-2106

General Information

Amelia West, Development Manager

awest@ardenwood.org

(415) 379-2108



ARDEN WOOD

445 Wawona Street, San Francisco, CA 94116-3058

(415) 681-5500

www.ardenwood.org