

MANY HEAR DR. RABINDRANATH TAGORE AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH LAST NIGHT; PROGRAM OF POEMS AND TALK ON HIS INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

An audience which taxed to capacity the First Presbyterian church was in attendance last night when Dr. Rabindranath Tagore, renowned Indian poet and philosopher, appeared under the auspices of the Men's Club of the church.

Dr. Tagore was introduced by Perry Maxwell, who stated that instead of the lecture which had been announced, Dr. Tagore would give a group of his poems.

Reading first from Gitanjali, which won for him in 1913 the Nobel Prize, Dr. Tagore gave his hearers an insight of the real East, as has been said "It is the essence of all poetry of East and West, alike, the language of the soul." He followed with readings from "The Crescent Moon," a collection of child poems, translated from the original Bengali by the author, as also is Gitanjali and the concluding readings from "The Gardner." His hearers were charmed with the child poems and a murmur of appreciation swept through the audience, at the conclusion of each selection. Among them were: "The Source," "Sleep Stealer," "The Beginning," "When and Why," "Defamation," "The Astronomer," "The Flower School," "The Hero" and others, concluding with "The End." Before reading from "The Gardner," Dr. Tagore explained that in the translation from the original Bengali, much of the beauty of rhythm was lost to him, and in order that the beauty of the original might be understood, here he read first Bengali, following with the English translation.

At the conclusion of the reading of the poem, and upon request of Mr. Maxwell, Dr. Tagore told of his mission in America which is to secure funds for the enlargement of his international university in India.

Before setting forth his great desire to further the establishment of a center of culture for the world, Dr. Tagore gave a brief sketch of his life, telling of the solitude of his early days, how he did not care for teachings in the abstract, and how he evaded the schoolmaster whenever possible. In later years how he felt compelled to do something for the children of his country, because of his early experiences, and how he gathered the children around him, because of his great love for them, his selection of a beautiful spot where he played with them, taught them in an atmosphere of culture where they learned through the subconsciousness. "This is how we learn most, when the mind is in the subconscious state, and I took advantage of this fact, and surrounded the children with the best in song, in literature, cultivated their love for beauty, bringing them in close touch to Nature. Also I tried to create the atmosphere of spiritual life, life of meditation." Out of this first ideal grew Dr. Tagore's conception of the large institution where students from all the world could gather, and get from India, from the real East, that which she has to offer.

The speaker told of the present feeling of distrust and suppressed resentment of the East towards the West, which is the outgrowth of the meeting for ulterior purposes, stating that a great opportunity was lost, or worse than lost, creating as it does the feeling of resentment throughout the East which "will burst out" any minute and which is a menace to the peace of the world. He sounded a note of warning, stating that the gulf is widening year by year, which will eventually result in disaster after disaster. "The weaker nations also hold their league—with God," he said, "and the invisible hand is grasping theirs, and the time drawing near when the weak will have their turn. It is the universal law of moral balance.

"You have many things to keep you interested, but this too is very important and you must give your thoughts to it. My mission is to appeal to you to make the institution, where East and West can meet on equal terms, permanent. Make it a creation of the East and West. I have come to invite you to my mother land where you will be offered the wisdom of the ages—the real East, the East of immemorial ages, of spirituality.

"Do not make use of human beings for selfish purposes. The whole world is crying for peace, but peace cannot be gained until love is gained. This is my message from the East to the West."

Dr. Tagore emphasized that the an-

tagonism existing between the East and West was due solely to the lack of knowledge of one another and that his scheme of bringing them together would make up this deficiency and with the coming of knowledge would come love resulting in peace.

From a leaflet concerning the institution the following is taken.

Having no doubt in his mind that the feeling of antipathy rapidly growing in intensity and extension between the people of the East and the West, is a great menace to the future of civilization, Rabindranath Tagore feels the necessity of making some attempt at reconciliation without delay. With this object in view he wishes to put before the thoughtful and sympathetic individuals of America a proposal to help him by raising funds to establish in India an International University where students from both hemispheres can meet together to study philosophy, literature, and the arts of India and the different cultures of the surrounding Eastern races.

Rabindranath Tagore has already formed the nucleus for such a university at his institution called "Shantiniketan" (Abode of Peace) which was started by him some twenty years ago as a school. This institution has been rapidly growing to influence and is now widening its scope and its appeal. Rabindranath Tagore has devoted all his resources to this experiment in education. He has given the whole of the Nobel Prize money the entire profit from his sale of books and a great part of his private income. Therefore he has the right to claim a generous co-operation of the people of this country in building up this institution which will be one of the factors for creating a future in which the East and the West will work together to bring about peace and restore civilization to its proper balance.

From the resources in his command and the effort of twenty years, Rabindranath has been able to build up an institution, which has now at the present moment, equipment for teaching 200 boys and girls up to the high school standard and fifty students for advanced studies and research work. The following table gives the number and kind of buildings and the professorial staff in existence and also those that are now needed in order to help it to grow into a center of Eastern culture.