

What Are You Afraid Of

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fears. We are all scared of that which we do not understand.

Faith and prayer are the great antidotes to illness. Several years ago the mother of seven-year-old Paul Anderson took him to the hospital. He was suffering from Bright's disease and the doctors held out no hope for his recovery. But the mother had unquenchable hope and faith. She called all the clergymen she knew, told them Paul was dying, and asked them to pray. A chain reaction of prayer swept the town. Five days later the youngster began to improve. Last year Paul Anderson was Olympic champion on the United States weight lifting team.

The seed of fear of ill health is easily planted. One way to prevent the germination of this seed is to ignore the perpetual advertising bombardment to which we are daily subjected—the kind that promises a cure for every ailment man can think of. No wonder we have ill health. We are never allowed to escape the subtle power of suggestion.

YES, WE are all at the mercy of our fears. And yet, once in every generation or so, the world produces a person who is completely without fear. Such a man was John Muir, the naturalist. Although brought up in near-poverty, he walked away from two fortunes and lived on tea and bread crumbs while tramping thousands of miles through the wildernesses that were left in America 50 years ago. He spent years hiking along obscure trails in distant Siberia, Manchuria, Japan, India, and Australia. This lucky citizen of a world, where most men are scared and uncertain all the time, was responsible for much of this nation's program for conservation of its natural resources. Oblivious to danger, unafraid of hardship, of wildness, of being alone, of facing death . . . immune to public opinion—he was wholly happy.

Fear is an expensive luxury. It is born of the unknown and nurtured on uncertainty. Whatever yours may be, bring it out into the open, expose it for what it is. For fear is vulnerable and yields quickly to the forces of courage, knowledge, and self-confidence. Don't make fear the penalty for living. •

OFFICIAL NOTICE

Membership Development and Retention

I HAVE the privilege of announcing the "Lions International Anniversary Membership Development Program," which will be conducted during the entire month of October, 1957.

Holding this program in October is a departure from our former procedure. You will recall that heretofore, from 1931 to 1957, the Birthday and Founders' Program—as it has been previously called—was held in January. However, at the April, 1957, meeting of the International Board of Directors, this program was augmented and made into two programs, as follows:

First, the LIONS INTERNATIONAL FOUNDERS' AND REDEDICATION MONTH, hereafter will be observed each year in January, at which time you will honor the founders (charter members) of your club and of the International organization, initiate new members, rededicate older members to the principles of Lionism, and celebrate the birthday of Secretary-General Melvin Jones.

The second part of the program will be known as LIONS INTERNATIONAL ANNIVERSARY MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, and will be conducted during the month of October. This part of the program has been placed under my direction and it is in this connection that I am addressing you now.

Why was October chosen for the membership development program? Well, there are several good reasons. Forty years ago—in October of 1917—the International Association of Lions Clubs was organized, and it is fitting, therefore, to celebrate our anniversary with a membership development plan to insure the perpetuation of our great organization.

Another reason: It is good that we will now be concentrating on strengthening our membership early in the fiscal year because in

that way our clubs will be better equipped to carry on their unselfish service activities right from the start. The new members who are taken in during October can be placed on committees of their choice and have a part in the preparation as well as the development of the club's projects.

October, then, is the month for each Lions club to concentrate on membership development, to fill the open classifications and to reinstate those former members who may now be again available. It is a good time to see that you have in your club a representative of every line of business, of every profession and of every institution in the community. Your membership committee should carefully screen all prospective members and refer to the Board of Directors for approval the names of only those who are reasonably expected to become good Lions and faithful members. Let your theme be "Don't sell Lionism too cheaply."

Membership in a Lions club is by invitation only, and there are many good and true men in your community who are waiting for that invitation to share your enthusiasm for Lionism. Give them the opportunity of adding their projects. They, too, will be able to efforts to put over your service say "It's great to be a Lion."

Our truly great record of accomplishment during the membership development programs of previous years is an indication of the potential in store for this year. With your enthusiastic support we can make this the greatest year ever, and in that way give concrete expression to the confidence we have in our distinguished International President, Edward G. Barry, and, at the same time, pay tribute to his inspiring leadership.

Al A. Schock, Chairman
Board of Governors
LIONS INTERNATIONAL