

TICKETS, PLEASE !

REV. G. H. GROSE

MAKE sure you have your ticket WITH you.

This is not a warning against ticketless travel. It is merely a reminder that a ticket left on the shelf in your bedroom is not of much help when it comes to boarding a train at the railway station. It is really a matter of remembering, and may be you have an orderly mind that never forgets anything. On the other hand, may be you haven't. Most of us suffer from a lapse of memory at sometime or another. Sometimes it's name or a date that we forget. Some people most easily forget the tasks which will cause them inconvenience. Perhaps that is why people forget to return their library books or a colleague's umbrella. We find these things useful and we don't want to part from them—and so we forget.

Which means that at times we can all benefit from a reminder. It may be a reminder that our Insurance premium is to be paid or that our Wireless Licence needs renewal. Sometimes it's our diary or our calendar that reminds us of things we need to do. Perhaps the function of the Quiet Hour is to do just that, to remind us of spiritual duties we dare not neglect.

To have a ticket and to leave it behind means that the ticket is worthless. Instead of a railway ticket let us think about a religious ticket. It seems that many individuals in their youthful years receive a religious ticket. They possess an awareness of God, a sense of a spiritual journey to be undertaken and a respect for values and an appreciation of mercy and selfless-

ness. But the spiritual ticket gets put to one side, neglected; just like the good books that once we used to read but which have now been left on the shelf.

Perhaps, I should explain. I do not think a religious book is a ticket that will guarantee that our life's journey will be satisfying, but it may help. I do not think that the mere recital of scriptures is a passport to heaven, though they may well give us a guide. When I use the term "religious ticket", I'm thinking of the God-given 'something' which He implants in our lives. We cannot buy this ticket. We cannot pay for our journey. But we can take with us what God has given us for our way.

"Almighty God,—When did you first think of me ?

—Before I ever saw the light of day ?

—Or was it long before that ?

In the modern mystery of genes and chromosomes I was fashioned.

How, I cannot tell. It is marvellous !

But now I am. I cannot deny that "I" am here.

But, by my being here, is Your purpose complete ?

If I feel a trend of movement in affairs,

If I sense a morning and an evening to Life,

And have my aspirations and a sense of goal,

Is this not some echo of your own Will ?

Is this not some indication that Time does move on,

—and is Your servant,

—and carries me along, too ?

And is there not a whisper in the stillness of my heart.

That is the breath of your spirit upon my spirit ?"

"Take Me, my child !"

"No, Father ! of that I am not worthy !

Nor is it fitting that I, the created, should possess the Eternal.

And yet, this I see; if I do not possess Thee, then at the end all is vanity.

And I am nothing,—except, perhaps, a bundle of memories of my own poor nature.

But, if I may take your hand or hold even the hem of your garment in faith, then I am whole.

And my future is in your fulfilled purposes.

Ah, Lord ! I cannot but hold You; I dare not go without You."

"TICKETS, PLEASE !"

"Lord, I have no fear. I have You."

TNAI Flood Relief Fund

The TNAI has organised a fund called "TNAI Flood Relief Fund" to provide assistance to the people in the flood-affected areas.

State Branches or institutions may collect fund for the purpose and remit the same to the H.Q. Individual members may send their donations direct to the Secretary TNAI, L-16 Green Park, New Delhi-110016, endorsing specifically on the M.O. Coupon : "For TNAI Flood Relief Fund."

While receipt will be sent for all the payments, donations, of more than Rs. 10.00 will be acknowledged through the Nursing Journal.