

TALKS TO ROTARY

Rev. Leroy Hughbanks Tells of Work for and with the Blind

Rev. Leroy Hughbanks, assistant director of the State Department of Social Welfare, a man whose physical blindness has given him remarkable discernment in things of mind and spirit, gave Rotarians today an informative resume of the work with, and for, the blind, under the social welfare program of the nation and state.

Simply stated, the program has for its purpose the restoration of sight, the prevention of blindness, and the rehabilitation of those who are incurably blind. The speaker, who is an ordained minister in the Episcopal church, while a member of the Kansas legislature in 1915 was the author of the first nitrate of silver bill, which has reduced blindness in babies at least 75 per cent.

At the present time 60 blind men and women are working side by side with seeing workmen in war industries in Kansas. Others are engaged in the manufacture of articles needed for the successful conduct of the war. Many blind persons are self-supporting thru conducting refreshment stands in public buildings in Kansas.

Where for one reason or another blind persons cannot use the Braille system, there has been home teaching thru talking records and machines. Altogether much progress has been made to enable the blind to live normal lives.

In beginning his address, Rev. Mr. Hughbanks presented a beautiful picture of the Christ, who laid down his carpenter tools to make the blind see, the lame to walk, and to bring hope and happiness to the underprivileged.

He then painted a graphic word picture of the advancement of the United States in all fields of industry and commerce, but in which it had not fully borne one another's burdens. The remarkable advance in social welfare has been the answer to the hitherto largely overlooked responsibilities.

The speaker was introduced by David L. (Scotty) MacFarlane, chairman of the state department of social welfare, and former district governor of Rotary.

The birthdays of Cliff Ramsey and Rev. Father McGinnis were remembered in fitting manner.

Fred Ellsworth made the first talk by members of the new committee on Civic Pride, and devoted his time to the great, well rounded and successful program now being conducted by Kansas University.

Next Monday evening the Rotary-ans will have charge at the Eldridge for an evening meeting.
