

National in Scope

The Ballards' meetings at the Civic Opera House began Friday. Afternoon and evening sessions are held and at least 5,000 persons attended each day. Many wear evening dress at the night "classes." The movement is national in scope and claims some 700,000 adherents.

Through their devotion to teaching the world about "The Great I Am Presence," the Ballards have no need to worry about the physical comforts of life. Mrs. Ballard is expensively bejeweled and gowned; so is Mrs. Donald Ballard, their daughter-in-law. The father and son—all three are designated "Accredited Messengers of the Faith"—wore immaculate white clothes.

Transportation between their downtown hotel and the Civic Opera Building is in two automobiles of finest make. One is painted a golden color. The other is a light blue, described as "electric blue."

The colors are significant of their faith as dictated to them by Saint Germain, the "Ascended Master" who appears to them in material form and, they say, directs their activities. Gold is symbolic of wisdom, and electric blue denotes power. The third color, a rose pink, signifies love.

Full of Happiness

The Ballards make no secret of the fact that their cup of material happiness is full to overflowing. You, too, can enjoy the same benefits, they say, if you follow their teachings and are able to receive the "Great Cosmic Light" from the "Mighty I Am Presence."

But it was not always thus. Said blond Mrs. Ballard:

"We didn't know where our next meal was coming from when we started our work in 1932. We had faith and our faith was justified. Things just worked out right for us. They can for any one."

He was a mining engineer, managing an uncle's mines in Arizona in 1929. She was a concert harpist. Both were deeply spiritual.

"We had studied metaphysics, spiritualism, the occult sciences and theosophy," Mr. Ballard said, "but we hadn't found the answer to the law of life."

Tells of Healing

Mrs. Ballard said she had found that when she held her hands near people who were ill, and concentrated upon healing them, many were made well, but she didn't know why until her

normality, and now is turning to stone again.

More than a year ago Mrs. Swinnerton left Cook County Hospital, after years' treatment in joyful anticipation of keeping house for her husband in Miami, Fla.

Physiotherapy treatments had relaxed her taut muscles and had checked her baffling affliction—myositis ossificans, the medical term for deposits of calcium that harden muscles and stiffen joints.

Now she is back at the county hospital, starting her tenth year of hospitalized treatment.

But she is still hopeful.

She can move her arms freely, though her legs are so contracted that she cannot walk, and can get about only in a wheel chair. She is in constant pain, but she smiles cheerfully and says—

"I can stand it."

And the reason for her fortitude?

"The doctor told me a week ago Sunday that I'm to have physiotherapy treatments again," she confided. "And that's not all. I may get some orthopedic braces to aid me in trying to walk. That was surely my red letter day."



MRS. IOLA SWINNERTON
"Turning to stone," yet she is happy making Christmas ornaments.

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