

Ask Mrs. Manners—

## What Were Last Words of Robert Ingersol?

Dear Mrs. Manners:

IN THE COURSE of his sermon recently a minister stated that the great erudite agnostic Robert G. Ingersol, just before he died, called the family to his bedside and said to them, "I'm wrong and am sorry." Has Mr. Ingersol's recantation been authenticated, and by whom?

I'm not asking this question in defense of Mr. Ingersol—but, in the language of the Declaration of Independence, "Let facts be submitted to a candid world."

I think your column can be a great help in answering academic as well as more practical questions.

E. E. W.

Kittredge's biography relates that Mr. Ingersol's last statement was related to his health—"I am better now." He suffered frequent angina attacks but died rather suddenly. Elbert Hubbard and Cameron Rogers make no references to deathbed apologies by Mr. Ingersol. The "American Monthly Review of Reviews," published in September, 1899, a month following Mr. Ingersol's death, carried an article by Dr. William Hayes Ward on Mr. Ingersol whom, it was written, declared himself agnostic as to the existence of God, but said that he was no atheist. He believed that God might exist but saw no evidence of his existence or promise of future life. He expressed desire that he might believe. He actually disbelieved, he said, in a God who damned people for sinning under conditions they could not help and in a God who damned non-elect or unbaptized infants. A creed which Mr. Ingersol wrote was read at his funeral.

Why don't you ask the minister for his source of information and check further at your library?

## 'I Can't Keep My Boy From Lying'

I AM MARRIED to a man I love and he is father to a 11-year-old boy. The boy's mother is dead. Now, I take the best care that I know of the boy but no matter what I do I can't keep him from lying to me or his daddy. I keep his clothes clean and when he comes in from school he has grass stain, dirt and dust all over him.

When I do whip him it will do good for just a week and when we tell him he'll get a whipping if he does certain things, he doesn't seem to care a bit as he does it just the same. If we have company he tries to show off or sasses me. He causes a lot of trouble between his daddy and me which sometimes I think I can't stand much longer.

I stayed with his grandmother two years after his mother died and he would do the same way. His daddy tells him he is going to whip him and when he does finally it's just barely a touch. He even told me his daddy wouldn't whip him if I didn't make him, so what can I do?

NASHVILLE, IND., READER.

Make the son love you if you want to keep this man you love. You don't have to coddle him, but cultivate him diplomatically. Affection is worth a try. The boy probably feels unwanted because you aren't his real mother and felt the same way when with his grandmother. Everyone needs to feel wanted, particularly children. Lord Byron wrote in "Don Juan":

"Love rules the camp, the court, the grove,

"For love is Heaven and Heaven is love."

You may not be hard on the boy but he thinks that you are. Make friends with him—love him—he'll love you. You can't replace his mother but you can come close because he is so young. Winning him would be an achievement to warm your heart, your husband's heart and the boy's, when he is older.

Keeping an 11-year-old clean won't win his friendship. Kindness and companionship may. Boys get dirty—you should have expected that. Didn't you agree to care for the son when you married? Can't

you remember smiling benignly on the "dear little boy" during courtship?

The child may lie because he fears you and "shows off" to gain attention from lack of affection.

## If You Wish to Adopt a Child—

I WOULD like "Shameful" who wrote the column Oct. 6 to write me. I am a mother who can understand her plight.

M. G., INDIANAPOLIS.

I cannot disclose the girl's name or yours. She may have contacted agencies suggested.

If you wish to adopt a child or take a foster child call Children's Bureau of the Indianapolis Orphan Asylum, 11. 6481, Suemma Coleman Home, WA. 8019, or Department of Public Welfare, 11. 2545. These groups have trained workers who attempt to "match" the child to its prospective parents.

## Spleen Extract Aids Three Victims of Cancer

By Science Service

PHILADELPHIA, Oct. 13—Three cancer patients at Hahnemann Medical College and Hospital here are apparently getting better after 12 weeks of treatment with a spleen extract. The extract was made by Dr. George F. Watson of Kitchener, Ontario.

Studies of its effects on the three patients and on mice are reported by him and Drs. Irene Corey of the Institute for Cancer Research here and N. Volney Ludwick of Hahnemann Medical College and Hospital in the journal, Science.

The extract is described as an improved and "much more effective" product" than one made and used by Dr. Watson 18 years ago.

The patients, one with a kidney cancer and the others with cancer of the lungs, were given the extract twice daily by hypodermic injection.

"Definite improvement in the general health of all these patients" is reported. The progress of the cancers is reported checked as revealed by X-ray studies made at regular intervals.

The fact that the spleen is almost never the original site of cancer and is only rarely attacked by cancer spreading from other organs is what stimulated Dr. Watson's efforts to attack cancer with a spleen extract.

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