

# THE MONITOR

A Weekly Newspaper devoted to the civic, social and religious interests of the Colored People of Omaha and vicinity, with the desire to contribute something to the general good and upbuilding of the community.

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## WILL THE AMERICAN CONSCIENCE AWAKEN?

Readers of The Monitor will probably recall an item which was published in the department "Our Women and Children," so admirably conducted by Lucile Skaggs Edwards, in one of our early issues, about the splendid record made by Miss Isabelle Vandervall in the New York Medical College. To refresh your memory, here is the item from the Newark (N. J.) Evening News:

"Besides receiving the degree of doctor of medicine, Miss Isabelle Vandervall carried off honors at the commencement of the New York Medical college and Hospital for Women, held in the Astor galleries of the Waldorf-Astoria. Dr. Vandervall was the first colored student to matriculate in the college since its organization fifty-two years ago. She received the prize for having maintained the highest efficiency during the four years of the college course.

Miss Vandervall has been officially notified of her appointment as an interne at the Hospital for Women and Children at Syracuse, N. Y."

Despite Dr. Vandervall's qualifications she has had some most humiliating experiences. We shall not here recount them. They are sufficiently indicated in the editorial from a recent issue of the New York Globe, which we shall soon quote.

That great metropolitan dailies are beginning to call attention to America's inhumanity to a large class of her best citizens gives ground for encouragement. Such editorials ought to, and we believe will, do much to awaken the dead conscience of this country on the question of prejudice and discrimination against men and women of color. Cases like that of Dr. Vandervall can be paralleled in appreciably large numbers in almost every community. But despite this fact our ambitious youth of both sexes will continue to prepare themselves for honorable careers in every line of endeavor and eventually find or make their opportunity. That the white press is beginning to realize the injustice and handicap of American prejudice and to say so is not without significance or encouragement.

Here is what the New York Globe says under the caption, "Isabelle Vandervall:"

"In this time of general searching of hearts and of desire to be right in fundamentals no true American can feel that everything is right with his country when it is possible for anyone truthfully to write such a letter as Jose Clarana yesterday wrote to The Globe.

"Isabel Vandervall was recently graduated from the Women's Medical College. She had the distinction of leading her class, having maintained

an average of 97 per cent. throughout her course, and having been publicly awarded an appropriate prize. But the young doctor has pigment in her skin. When she applied for a place in a hospital where some colored women are given training as nurses she was told, it is said, point-blank that the hospital never intended to have a colored interne and that if she attempted to take the examinations her papers would be marked below the passing point. This hospital, it appears, bears the name of Lincoln.

"The next application was to a hospital in Syracuse, and on the strength of her papers the honor pupil was accepted. On reporting for duty, the arrangement was promptly cancelled.

"The simple story speaks for itself. It is not fair to pick out the authorities of Lincoln Hospital or the Syracuse hospital for special attack. They acted as they did doubtless because they felt they must. The fault is with all of us, or most of us. Yet the thought cannot but come back that in some way the American people must pay for the injustice they show to the Negro. They heavily paid for the sin of slavery, and they can hardly expect to avoid penalty in some manner for tolerating an extreme caste spirit that nullifies every American principle."

## GOOD SIGNS.

An Associated Press dispatch says that at Oakland, Cal., recently, Bishop Thirkild of New Orleans told the Methodist board of home and church missions that the Catholics are making inroads among New Orleans' Negroes.

Speaking of "Mother" Catherine Drexel's Negro work for the Catholics, he said:

"God bless her, she is doing a noble work."

I think that was a fine thing for a Methodist bishop to say. Why not be fair to one another? Why permit religious prejudice to close one's eyes to the good work of other denominations?

That reminds me that the Nebraska state Baptist convention at Grand Island recently and unanimously adopted a resolution praising the work of Mr. Fenton, warden of the Nebraska penitentiary. The fact that Mr. Fenton happens to be a Catholic and that public reference has been made to his religious affiliations is important here only for the reason that it provides an opportunity to emphasize the growing spirit of toleration among Nebraska people.

That spirit should be encouraged at every opportunity. It would be fine if Nebraska could take the lead among states where men may choose their own religion without criticism and

where a man's theological affiliations have nothing to do with his neighbor's attitude toward him.—The Omaha Nebraskan.

Of course this spirit should be encouraged. We endorse the noble sentiment here expressed most heartily. We would like to have this spirit so grow that it will include not only religious differences, but racial as well, so that a man's race or color shall "have nothing to do with his neighbor's attitude toward him," and that he shall be judged and rated by his character and ability and given opportunity for honorable service accordingly.

Why not work for this truly democratic ideal?

The undertaking firm of Jones and Chiles is to be congratulated on the beautiful calendar they have issued. It is a real work of art, ornamented with the photograph of a bright and attractive little child, Aleeta Elisabeth, the five-year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis, 2511 Lake street. The same firm also sent gifts of candy Christmas to the respective Sunday schools, all of which goes to show that our business firms are becoming more and more enterprising.

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