

Futile to Commend Church Attendance as a Duty.

The Rev. Lester Leake Riley, Rector of Christ Church, Springfield, Ill., in a pastoral letter to his parishoners, referring to the necessary regulations of the influenza epidemic which "deprive us of the consolations of public worship" closes with the following paragraph: "When the ban is lifted we will assemble once again and I hope in great numbers, as an expression and evidence of this great need of the spiritual aspiration of our corporate life. I feel the utter futility of commending church attendance as a duty, although that is not a consideration to be despised. Rather, I urge it upon you for the very good reason that it should be the awakening of your inner self to the world's quickening response to God, that 'for this world the Word of God is Christ!,' and with the ambition that should animate everyone of us who loves life and our common humanity, we must be prepared to face the new problems of social and economic importance to Democracy which can only be brought to pass by an atmosphere that is created by religious enthusiasm and earnestness."
