

25

The Problem of Domestic Violence

RECENT TRAGEDIES in the home have been very disturbing. You have probably heard about parents beating, or even murdering, their children, or committing suicide themselves and forcing small children to die with them. In some cases of marital argument, one parent may beat the children as well as the spouse. Very sad indeed!

The reasons for marital discord are numerous, so I will mention only a few of them.

If one of the spouses becomes addicted to drinking alcohol, gambling, or any other vice, there are likely to be serious quarrels over money and neglect of the family. Poverty and money problems are a common cause of domestic violence. In the heat of the moment, one loses control of his temper.

Another cause of marital discord may be that, before marrying, the husband or wife, appears to be very loving and caring. After marriage, however, one may discover the other's weaknesses. The husband may find that his wife is very extravagant, or that she is careless about household chores. Or some wives may think that the husband is thoughtless and does not help in caring for, or managing the children. One of the spouses may be overworked, comes home late, and the other feels neglected at home, and a misunderstanding develops between

them. Tempers then begin to flare.

Many years ago, I suggested that senior students should have special lessons on the responsibilities of married life. It seems strange to me that students study so many subjects in school to prepare them for their future, yet the one subject they are not taught is how to deal with marriage. This is knowledge that almost every student will need in the future. No doubt it will become a subject recommended in reforms in the education curriculum. It is a good way to save families from tragedies in marriage.

People now marry at a later age than in the past. Generally speaking that is good, because young people may learn that wealth, or physical attraction, is not a certain basis for a happy marriage. It is better to know the partner's faults and how to deal with them before getting married. It is too late to find out, after marriage, that the two are incompatible. If there are children, they will be traumatized when their parents separate and quarrel about their custody, and they are left with only one parent.

The lesson is: "look before you leap" into marriage!