

### Intinction and the Common Cup.

The Rev. Howard K. Bartow in a recent issue of the *Living Church* (Episcopal) urged the practise of intinction, urging this mode of distributing the elements in the Lord's Supper on the ground of fear of infection. His article called forth several spirited replies. The Rev. H. S. Whitehead of the Church of the Advent (Boston) meets the challenge of Rev. Bartow, "Why will not the Church abandon the common chalice, and adopt the method of intinction?" as follows:—

"The reason why the Church has not authorized this practise is because the Church has faith in her Lord. To go a step farther, and meet on its own pragmatic ground the plea of the modernist founded on fear of infection, one may well ask, Why does not the protagonist for this change back up his plea by facts? That there is danger of infection from the common chalice is a pure assumption.

"The writer in the course of his ministry has received the remainder of the consecrated elements a very great many times after having communicated persons suffering from infectious diseases. These diseases have included smallpox, virulent tuberculosis, and other diseases even more deadly and loathsome. He has never suffered any ill effect. He has never anticipated any. He has yet to learn of any one who has suffered such effects. He submits that if there be any ground for the fear so frankly acknowledged by the persons who desire that intinction replace the traditional method for administering the Holy Communion, these grounds should be stated in the form of actual, concrete cases.

"Because a woman suffering from tuberculosis has 'thought a great deal' of these imagined perils, seems small ground for an appeal to the bishops of the Church to authorize the justification of a type of fear which has to commend it only the fact that it is typical of a certain group of modernists, not conspicuous for their faith or for the courage which rests upon faith."

A bacteriologist, in the same issue of the *Living Church*, utters this protest against a departure from the use of the common cup:—

"As a bacteriologist I must recognize the presence of bacteria on the chalice which has been touched by the lips of a communicant. They may be the organisms causing tuberculosis, pneumonia, influenza, diphtheria, sore throat, or merely non-pathogenic germs normally found in the mouth. Contact with these organisms, however, does not of necessity produce the corresponding disease. It is a known fact that one may harbor bacteria (such as those producing TB, or pneumonia), which, however, are entirely inactive for the lifetime. They may become active when bodily resistance is lowered by some cause, as exposure to dampness or cold or by prolonged strain.

"If individuals did not possess a considerable degree of resistance to infection, the world would soon be crippled with cases of tuberculosis, pneumonia, and countless other diseases. Disease-producing bacteria are met with everywhere as one goes about his daily work, breathing the germ-laden air in crowded rooms and trains, or from

contact with dusty articles and common things, as pencils and tickets touched by soiled hands. One does not, as a rule, handle money with sterile forceps; yet tubercular germs may just as easily (more probably, in fact) be present on coins and bills as on the chalice, for they have passed through the hands of hundreds of people careless in their personal habits. Having the bacteria on the hands, it is easy enough to infect mouth and nostrils. Certainly, exposure to infection comes a thousand times more frequently in the world at large than it would in the shamefully few and far-between communions made by the majority of church people."

GRAEBNER.