

**Mildred L. LeBlond, CSB
(1883-1961)**

Biographical Sketch

Mrs. Mildred L. LeBlond is a well known and beloved Journal listed Christian Science practitioner and teacher based in the San Francisco/Bay Area. For those who knew and worked with her, she adhered strictly to what Mrs. Eddy had imparted in the demonstration and instruction of absolute (or pure) Christian Science. She also liked to work with young people and included them in her Primary Classes. It is believed that she originated the idea of the Christian Science Monitor Youth forum.

Although very little is known about Mildred, she was born in 1883, is from the Midwest (Nebraska or Missouri), and her surname may have been Reinken. She was studying music in Europe when Christian Science found her. It is not known how Mildred ended up in the Bay Area. She told one of her students that once you cross the Rockies, you never go back!

A dear friend of Mildred's married a brilliant Dutch medical doctor, and at one point he and Mildred had lengthy discussions about healing the sick. Eventually she persuaded him that Mind, not matter is the basis of all healing. He abandoned *materia medica* and became an earnest student of Christian Science, a practitioner, teacher, and popular lecturer. His name was Dr. Hendrik J. deLange.

LeBlond

Mrs. Eddy selected Bicknell Young to teach the Normal Class scheduled to convene in December 1910. One particular member of that class was Eleanor LeBlond (b. 1865) and she established her practice in San Francisco. Mildred went to Eleanor ~~LeBlanc~~ for Primary Class instruction probably in 1911 or 1912 (a practitioner entry for a Miss Mildred Reinken, CS of Oakland, California - 3118 Davis St. Fruitvale - appears in the Christian Science Journal during this time). Both Eleanor and Mildred were very close.

Eleanor's husband, Frank C. LeBlond (b. 1866), had once been an expert tobacco buyer. Needless to say Christian Science changed the course of his life and he became a Christian Science practitioner in his own right and contributed to the periodicals.

Both Eleanor and Frank were active in the establishment and development of First Church of Christ, Scientist, San Francisco. There is an entry in the February 1905 Christian Science Journal detailing this branch church's lecture event on December 17, 1904 featuring Bicknell Young as guest lecturer. Eleanor was First Reader at the time and introduced Mr. Young. There were over 2,000 people in attendance and several hundred were turned away!

After Eleanor passed away in 1921 or 1922, Mildred attended Bicknell Young's Associations. Some time later in 1923 or 1924 Mildred and Frank LeBlond married with both maintaining their respective practices in San Francisco. Frank passed away in 1947.

The Board of Education did not elect Bicknell Young to teach the triennial Normal Class again until 1937. And Mildred was a member of that class.

Mildred LeBlond taught Primary Classes for the next 24 years, from 1938 to 1961. She passed away shortly after teaching her Class of 1961.