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French Scientists' Views On Religion Greatly Changed

(By N. C. W. C. News Service.)
 Paris, July 16.—Members of the Institute, professors of the College of France and the Sorbonne as well as of the great schools, inventors, famous experts of all branches of science and eminent scholars, in short a veritable "Congress of Celebrities," were recently questioned by the French daily Figaro as to their views on "Religious Feeling and Science." The replies to the questionnaire are a startling revelation of the changes in opinion among scientists toward the problem of religion during the last fifty years.

It is significant that of the very few replies which showed traces of the old animosity of scientists toward religion, the most typical was sent in anonymously—the only one received unsigned—and even this was far from being a dogmatic denunciation, for it merely said that "Science—and I mean by this the ensemble of the exact sciences—works in a field so distinct from the spiritual that, no doubt, it cannot reach a valid conclusion against religious sentiment, but I wish to add that neither can it include in its favor."

A Formidable Question
 A much more positive declaration comes from M. Emile Picard, Professor at the Sorbonne, member of the French Academy and perpetual secretary of the Academy of Sciences: "You have asked a formidable question," he writes in a statement which may be taken as a brief summary of the change in the scientific attitude toward religion. "About fifty years ago, numerous scholars did not doubt that science would find the last word on all things. Some of them wrote that there were no longer any mysteries; the scientific mind, to them, was the highest development of the human intelligence. Ideas on the value of science have undergone some change since then—this integral scientism is decreasing. The history of science is full of ruins and like books, theories too have their day. Our notions of the natural law have undergone a tremendous variation in fifty years. Let us leave to their dogmatism those who make an idol of Science—the concepts on which it is based are somewhat arbitrary and it would seem that many things are irreducible to scientific knowledge. The feeling that the universe remains an enigma to us is, properly speaking, the religious sentiment understood in its broadest sense, and the diagrams of Science furnish no authorization for the assertion that there is any opposition between this sentiment and the scientific spirit."

M. Pierre Termier, Inspector General of Mines and famous in the scientific world for his geological works and discoveries in the Alps, the Pyrenees, in Corsica and Northern Africa, writes as follows: "To affirm that Science is opposed to religious sentiment is to admit that one has an incomplete and, consequently inexact idea of the scientific spirit. . . . Religious sentiment is a fact which the scientific spirit may well consider and which it would be puerile not to recognize. On the contrary Science, which is necessarily limited and which creates more mysteries than it explains, Science itself would seem to invite man to cross its boundaries and dispose his mind to receive proofs of the existence of God."

Another interesting reply comes from a great chemist, M. Charles Moret, Professor at the College of France, who, during the war, was given the task of organizing the defense of the French troops against asphyxiating gases: "In order to answer the question, the highest and the most grave, which you asked me, I retired in all simplicity into my inner self, past and present, and this is what I found: that Science is opposed to religion I may—I am not even sure—have believed in the days of my youth. . . . Thirsting for knowledge, I threw myself into the arms of Science and soon, intoxicated by her conquests, I was not far from thinking that Science was capable of resolving all problems and that nothing, neither the essence of life nor the beginning and end of things, would escape its embrace. I was then perhaps a materialist, believing that divinity, the immortality of the soul are ideas for the simple minded, to be rejected by minds which are truly free. . . . But on all sides I found before me the Infinite. Not only when I plunged myself toward the silence of those terrifying spaces in which innumerable planets move, but also when I bent over the infinitely small atom. . . . The Infinite! In this universe where everything is solidarity, where everything has a connection with everything else. . . . you may study observe, scrutinize and compare. And when reason has been outdistanced and is powerless and overwhelmed, defend yourself if you can against a feeling of humility in the face of the prodigious enigma whose greatness fascinates and confounds you. And if you cannot so defend yourself, then admit the irresistible need of a conclusion, and, obeying the deepest aspirations of your troubled soul, ask yourself whether you do not entertain the idea of some all-powerful and perfect Being, a Super-Being.

Author and Legislator of the physical universe and of the moral world. Such, from the point of view of the Great Problem, was the evolution of my thought. . . . Religion, as I understand it, tends to satisfy the needs of the heart, to add poetry and beauty to life. To those who accept it, it brings an answer to the supreme question which Science does not solve."

Science Without Religion Dangerous
 M. Brantly, noted Catholic scientist, Professor at the Catholic Institute and inventor of wireless, declares that Science allied with Religion is beneficial but that without Religion it is dangerous. M. Blondel, Professor at the School of Bridges and Highways, declares that the incompatibility between Science and Religion no longer exists anywhere except in "primary and backward minds."

The great majority, almost the unanimity of the opinions expressed on the subject by the numerous and eminent scientists, chemists, physicists, geologists, mathematicians, zoologists and members of the great Academies, although arrived at by different processes, were very similar to those which have been quoted. They prove that French scientific thought has undergone a profound change since the time, a few years ago, when a future premier was applauded for announcing from the tribune of the Chamber of Deputies: "We have put out stars in Heaven which will not be lighted again."

Gray Penitents Keep 700th Anniversary At Avignon Gathering

Avignon, July 1.—The Confraternity of the Gray Penitents of Avignon celebrated its seven hundredth anniversary here recently. The confraternities of Nimes, Montpellier, Tarascon, Arles and other cities in the district participated in the celebration, coming all the way to Avignon for this purpose. The Gray Penitents are Catholic laymen who meet together to perform certain acts of piety, subject to certain special rules and who, on special occasions, wear a special costume with a hood when escorting the crucifix in processions.

The Avignon Confraternity was founded in 1236. After Louis VIII had conquered the Albigensians, he ordered a procession, in which he marched at the head followed by the court, the clergy and the entire population of the city. Ever since then the Blessed Sacrament has been exposed in the chapel of the Holy Cross, at which the procession ended, and the confraternity was instituted to guard it.

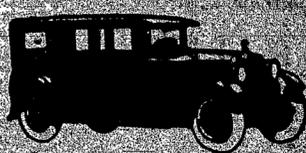
Cardinal Hayes Looks For Big Results From Eucharistic Congress

(By N. C. W. C. News Service)
 Cleveland, July 1.—"If the harvest may be judged from the seed time, we may look for tremendous results from the recent International Eucharistic Congress," His Eminence Patrick Cardinal Hayes declared in a brief interview given here on his way to New York after assisting at the consecration of the new St. Louis cathedral.

"The Congress in Chicago," the Cardinal continued, "was perhaps the most outstanding event in American Catholic history. It was a spontaneous expression of spiritual fervor that cannot fail to make itself felt in the Church and in the nation." Replying to a query as to prohibition, the Cardinal said: "The Catholic Church has always stood for temperance in all things. If a man chooses to be a total abstainer, that is praiseworthy. The question is, should total abstinence be imposed by law? I do not know; but since it is imposed, it is our duty to obey. "The boys and girls of today? Well, I hope they'll be all right. I were to undertake to advise them, I should say simply, 'Be good Christians and good Americans.' No sounder advice can be given."

Milan University Will Have College For Teacher Nuns

(By N. C. W. C. News Service)
 Milan, July 8.—The great interest of the Holy Father in Catholic education and the promotion of Catholic social work is revealed in the announcement which has just been made that His Holiness has entrusted to the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart the task of establishing a new branch to be known as the Apostolic Institute of the Sacred Heart. This institute will comprise two distinct establishments, a Sisters' College, to be known as the College of Mary Immaculate, for teaching Sisters desiring to take special courses and a special school for summer and autumn courses for Catholic organizations. The Institute will be housed in an ancient castle, formerly the property of the Duchess Ciella Fogliano Palaschini. The property was sold some time ago to a real estate firm from whom it has been leased for a term of years, and the Holy Father has not only provided the funds for its equipment for its new purpose but plans to support the Institute from his own patrimony.

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 By way of illustration, we give the following testimonials recently received by the Shrine of Saint Anthony:
 F. J. S. Dubuque, Ia.: "I am enclosing you, enclosed in a letter to St. Anthony for a very great favor, namely the recovery of land which I know I could not have had but for his help."
 Mrs. J. McG., Wilmington, Del.: "Enclosed find \$5.00 promised St. Anthony for your Student's Bread Fund. I have received a substantial relief in salary and know the favor granted thru prayer to St. Anthony."
 L. A. R., Columbus, O.: "St. Anthony is a wonderful saint. He certainly started my little business going since the first of making the Novena to him in April. Enclosed find a letter Bread as I promised."
 N. A., New York City: "A few weeks ago I wrote you asking to pray to St. Anthony to get work for me. I am now employed. I know I have got the work I asked for. St. Anthony is a joyful heart that I am enclosing some newspaper clippings to Father to thank God and St. Anthony with me."
 G. E. S., Minn.: "No words can express my gratitude to St. Anthony. My husband has found a good position. He was in a very bad way when I promised for St. Anthony's Bread."
 Mrs. R. H., Pa.: "A short time ago I was in a very bad way, asking him to sell two lots for me. He has done it in a few days. Thanks to St. Anthony, I sold the lots and my business is finished the Novena."
 A new Novena begins at Graymoor every Monday. Petitions to ST. ANTHONY'S GRAYMOOR NOVENA, THIS FORMER OF THE ATONEMENT, BOX 312, FERRISBURGH, N. Y.

Chinese Planisphere Shows Idea of Globe Held In 17th Century

Paris, July 9.—A report just received from Tien-Tsin announces that a publisher there has just issued a reproduction of a curious planisphere made in 1674 under the direction of a Belgian Jesuit, Father Verbiest, who had been appointed director of the Pekin Observatory by Emperor Kang-Hai. This planisphere, very carefully executed, shows the idea of the globe which prevailed two hundred fifty years ago. Africa was shortened at the cape and extended toward the west. The South Pole constituted an immense continent separated from Australia by a narrow neck of water. In America, Alaska was detached and California was isolated from the two continents. The three lakes Superior, Huron and Michigan formed a single sheet of water, almost round. The map was made from a woodcut and colored by hand. In addition to the names, printed in Chinese, it bore curious reproductions of the animals of various countries.

Irish Stage Stars Mary
 London, July 10.—A prominent Irish actor and an equally well known Irish actress, Arthur MacLellan and Miss Maire O'Neill, were married here a few days ago at Corpus Christi Church, generally known as the Actors' Church. Both are members of the Irish Players and are appearing together in Sean O'Casey's play "The Plough and the Stars."