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MEMBER CATHOLIC PRESS ASSOCIATION

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"I would make any socrifice, even to the pawning of my ring, pectoral cross and soulane, in order to support a Catholic newspaper."-Pore Pius X,

Editorials

SATURDAY OF THE FOURTH WEEK IN LENT Grant, we beseech Thee, Almighty God: that we who, knowing our weakness, trust in Thy strongth, may ever rejoice in Thy loving kindness, Through our Lord.

OUR DIOCESAN PATRON

It is now something a little over a century since a few Trish immigrants, settled in the vil lage of Rochester and vicinity, organized a parish under the protection of the patron of heir homeland, St. Patrick. Since that day many peoples of other races have settled in Rochester and contributed to the growth of the Catholic Church in this region. The first parish became in time the Cathedral parish of the diocese and St. Patrick became the patron of the diocese.

There is much legend mixed up with history in the story of St. Patrick. His glory is so great that other European peoples have also claimed with the Irish some share of the racial possession of this famous hero of the Irish Church. Which only goes to show that the saints belong to the universal church, and that all nations may claim a share in their virtues and intercession.

St. Patrick instilled in the Irish a strong faith. No matter what other virtues his people possesses, the outstanding virtue is their adherence to the Faith. This is so true, that, whatever value there may be politically in the modern division of Ireland, it still remains a fact that she is divided geographically along lines of faith. And where Irish traditions have passed on into other parts of the world, it still remains a fact that the Faith has been their predominant characteristic, -so much so that the term "Irish" in our country, seems to include today the sons and daughters of other nations who know little about the Irish but are referred to as Irish simply because they

When we think of St. Patrick we think imdiately of our holy Faith. St. Patrick is the natron of our diocese and to him under God is placed the protection of our Faith in this part of the Lord's Vineyard. As the annual recurrence of his feast comes round, all the Catholics of this fair diocese are urged to pray to him and ask God in his honor that the privilege he obtained for a nation may also be the privilege of this diocese-a glorious preservation and defence of our holy Faith.

HIGH-BROW FORTUNE TELLING

"Vocational guidance is in danger of making a virtue of charlatanism . . . Thousands of counsellors and advisors spend hundreds of thousands of dollars trying to do the impossible. Elaborate guidance programs are developed and more claborate guidance techniques are invented all to no avail . . . The use of any measuring device generally implies some relationship between the thing measured and reality. If an intelligence test bears as little relationship to vocational success as a measurement of finger length does to school success, then such tests cannot be used as a basis of vocational guidance."

Thus does Dr. Irving Lorge, Research Assoclate in the Institute of Educational Research at Teachers College, Columbia University, score the attempts of vocational prediction in an article appearing in Teachers College Record for February and entitled, THE CHIMERA OF VO-CATIONAL GUIDANCE.

Vocational prediction assumes, so Dr. Lorge tells us, that there is a definite relationship between a person's abilities, aptitudes, and capacitles and his success in a chosen field of work. The Doctor's unqualified conclusion is, "that no such marked relationship exists." He maintains that the standardized tests which are the basis of vocational guidance are costlier than astronomical observations which would serve the pur-

pose just as well. Vocational success can mean two things; a persons happiness and pleasure in a vocation and also a person's financial success. The former happens somewhat oftener than the latter but the two do not seem to be combined very

often in one person. Briefly, what Dr. Lorge tells us is that there such thing as a professionally trained

Chaderlying a good deal of the educational though of the day is the so-called Behavioristic phile. A person is born with certain charcheristics and in certain circumstances of enthe this past life has revealed an ing that boy will be a black-to leave of fate. It is necessary because it he gave out The state of the s

will be unhappy. So a vocational counselor tells him so anyway. Educators also are influenced by this mechanical determination: this is why it is necessary for them to take themselves for granted, and why it is proper for the world to take their conclusions for granted.

It would be unfair to say that all educators are of the same mind as those described in the preceding paragraph, or even the majority of them; but a great many of them are certainly tainted with behaviorism, and their specious arguments are very attractive to a material world. And it would seem that the advocates of vocational prediction are of this class.

The child of fourteen is not a mechanical doll, and no amount of mathematical calculation will foretell what he will do in the future. The idea that education can pidgeon hole every character is all wrong, for education can give no more than a partial prediction of what the future holds. This is particularly true in matters of industry and occupation. Never was this more evident than today when many trades of a generation ago have ceased altogether. And as far as financial success is concerned, how about the millions who are out of work today? If the objection is raised that these are abnormal times, then the answer 15. Why not suspend these predictions until normaky is restored?

One of the purposes of education is to recognize and develop talent as much as possible. Vocational guidance cannot be tabooed altogether. It is only when free will is left out of consideration and almost absolute card-cataloguing of the 'uture is attempted that it can be said to be abst'in ly valueless. Every teacher of any common sense recognizes in his pupils certain traits that are outstanding upon which he carrand should offer advice or warning, but this comes only from daily contact and observation which is a by-product of education. Thus, if a boy has a talent for drawing he should be encouraged to perfect it and helped along. But advice and encouragement are not the same thing as vocational guidance in the sense of saying that that boy will be a successful artist without fail. Too many other circumstances, amongthem personal industry and the exercise or will power enter in.

In other words, the professional guide of vocation, who is not a guide at all but a sort of compiler of figures and data, leaves out the human element; and it is just this human element that changes vocational guidance, with its train of educational attempts at verification, into a profession that smacks of a racket. It would seem to be just plain high-brow fortune telling. distinguishable from low-brow fortune telling in that it is supported by public taxation and is not so specific in its predictions.

Current Comments

DARE WE BE DIFFERENT?

The American public today is becoming so hardened and calloused to vulgarity and mild obscenty that morally they are lower than ever before in this great era of advanced civilization. Things of true beauty have been set in the background. America as a whole has accepted this modern trend of thought in amusements and entertainments. Producers are flooding the market with public entertainments, many of which are not of the calibre suited to the average Ametican taste. As a result good and wholesome entertainment is something only a privileged few enjoy (or so it seems) either for lack of initiative to look far enough or simply the lack of enough self respect to keep away from entertainments that tend to corrupt the morals of a Christian man.-The Messenger, Belleville.

IT REQUIRES COURAGE

Who feels the pinch of depression years most keenly? The old folks who lost their life savings and have no one to look to for support? The well-to-do who lost all source of income and must readjust their whole life to new environment? The young generation who cannot complete their education, or who dare not settle down in homes of their own aintil times get better? No matter in what class we may be, the hardship objectively is the same, requiring equal courage, equal cheerfulness and equal strength to meet and dispell the troubles of depressing days .- Milwaukee Catholic Cilizen.

HOME

There are those who in the complexities of present day life have a home where father and mother and children dwell in contentment and peace. They touch and taste modern life, where is needful, extracting pleasure from its poisonous flower as a bee slips honey from bitter and maladorous blooms.

Such a home is made by a good father and a good mother who never for a moment forget that they are guardians, custodians of immortal souls. Who know their responsibilities as parents and do not, as so many are doing, attempt to shift their responsibility by letting the Sisters and the Priests do what they should be doing which they only can do. Parents make a home, not the Sisters nor the Priest.

Many of the evils of society today come from the attempt of the State or the School or the Church to do what parents alone can and should

The breakup of the home is in great part due to the same cause. Parents look to the State. or the Church, or the School to do tasks which they, the parents, should be doing. - Indiana Catholic and Record.

"Endeavor to be patient in supporting the defects and infirmities of others, of what kind soever; because thou also hast many things which others must bear withal. If thou canst not make thyself such a one as thou wouldst, how canst thou expect to have another according to thy liking? We would willingly have others perfect, and yet we mend not our own defects."-Thomas a Kempis, on patience.

Normal times: A period when you build a d reputation. Boom times. When you trade It for easy money. Louisville Herald Post.

Diocesan Recordings

With so many of our people not obliged to work on Saturdays there should be a large attend. ance at the St. Patrick's Day Mass at the Cathedral, this year, or at your own parish Mass.

Accuracy in news reporting is most essential since the majority, of people place great faith in the printed word. Of course accuracy comes easier with an understanding and knowledge of the subject reported Lack of com. plete knowledge oftentimes causes misunderstandings. This seems to have been the case in a recent press report of a meeting of the Social Workers Club of Roches. ter addressed by a Protestant Minister, a Catholic Priest and a Jewish Rabbi on the subject of "Spiritual Values in Social Work." We concern ourselves here with the summarization of the Catholic Priest's talk as reported in one of the daily papers as follows;

"Asserting the faith of the Catholic Church in an unknown oundpotence, the speaker pointed out the loyalty of ('atholic workers to their sense of responsibility to something infinite and beyond This summary failed to report accurately the priest's message. What he said substantially

"The three speakers on this evening's program are not engaged in debate. We are not asking you to take sides with us; no judge has been appointed and no trophy is to be awarded. We have been asked as representatives of the three major religious groups to give our views of Spiritual Values in Social Work.

"I mean no offense when I suggest that, to me, the proposition is stated backwards. I could more intelligently discuss the 'opportunities afforded by social work for the accomplishment of things spiritual. We Catholics are too often accused of falling down on the job as sectal workers if we do not 'major' in playrooms and dance halls and swimming pools and gymnasiums, but to my mind the Catholic Church is constantly engaged in the highest form of social work when she is teaching her children belief in God and in the immortality of the human soul. She is doing something infinitely more important than running social centers when she is making her members conscious of their responsibility to God and His ten commandments. She is performing social work in a community when she is administering the Sacraments of the Church, heating Confessions, distributing the Bread of Life, insisting on the indissolubility of the marriage tic and the invigable rights of parents over their children; when she prepares tile soul for her entrance into Eternity and Judg. ment, and these things she is doing every day in thousands of parishes withor without the aid of

It is not to be expected that those who report for the daily press shall have absolute knowledge of all things. There is a time element that enters into such reporting that often causes addresses to become on paper unlike that which was said. To avoid the possibilities of being inaccurately quoted, speakers would do well to furnish typewritten manuscripts to any publication liable to reproduce their addresses. Then if the talk is garbled the publishers may be checked. It is the safe way to enable editors to report in whole or in part an address given, especially if it is of a nature that, for want of a better word might be termed, technical.

There are those who believe that children will not become interested in their Catholic newspaper. This we have found to be untrue in many cases, but of one particular case we take this space to relate. Just before Christmas of 1932 we carried in this column an account of an exchange of correspondence between little Miss Isabel Kelly of 67 High Street, Geneva, aged eight, which was reminiscent of the little girl who wrote to the editor of the New York Sun asking if there was a Santa Claus. Isabel was pleased with the mention and sent in a subscription to the Catholic Courier. This week we received another pleasing letter from the young lady who has grown a year older, in her own handwriting, With the letter she enclosed a renewal to her subscription. Not only has she read the paper during the year-but recently when a case of mumps kept her indoors composed the following verse for her favorite Catholic newspaper: WHEN, LITTLE WREN?

Pray, when My little wren, When, oh, when From the sunny South will you

> Pray, when? For I'm lonesome, little #16D Pray, when?

Pray, when? Well, then. Just when.

return?

The trees and the sun and the sky say it's Spring. That's when If your lonesome

Just then.

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STRANGE BUT TRU Catholic Facts But Little Known

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By M. J. MURRAY



THE LIBRARY, SIGN POST

The hectic marine traffic of New York harbor was fog-bound one time during last month's sub-zero weather. The great incoming liners lay majestically at rest in midstream; even the usually impudent tugs dared no more than a cautious nosing pace, ready to be instantly checked on a moment's notice of danger ahead.

... Many of our secular "think-

ers" are fog-bound. A misty cloud of scepticism lies heavy on their minds: it blurs their vision of life's starting-point, direction and goal. To them the earth is no more than a "sterile promontory," the air, "a foul and pestilent congregation of vapors," and man, only the "quintessence of dust." But these men do not possess the mariner's caution: they rush full steam ahead through their mental fog. They lecture confidently from university platforms; they write books; they accept invitations from matinee hostesses and city clubs. But they are heading for a crash, and when it comes, thousands of souls are ruined. The years between 1929 and 1933 saw more than a financial slump: they witnessed the crash of vicious philosophy of ugly materialism, "rugged individualism" and unchristian "laissez-faire" . . .

. . . Catholics will not feel inclined to desert the seaworthy ship of Peter which sails in the clear light of Christian revelation and philosophy, or to entrust their destiny to the dangerous hulls or individual rafts that push blindly. toward danger in the fog of modern infidelity.

When a Rochester non-Catholic religious representative recently said that he agreed fundamentally with Catholics in religion but not in theology, what in the name of common-sense did he mean? Theology is the study of God and of His dealings with-creatures, as reason and revelation show them to us. Are we to leave that out of religion? Then all that we have left is the cult of humanity and the ritual of social service, and that is more and more what sectarian

religion is dwindling to . . . The American Review has a biting satire on this new religion of

Sociology - not sociology which keeps its subordinate place, but sociology with a capital S which its idolatrous devotees have all but raised to the rank of God, The article concludes with a parody on the 94th Psalm which the author respectfully submits to be used as opening prayer for the group meetings of the Sociologists: it is such good satire that it demands to be tacked on the Signpost. Here it is:

"O, come, let us sing unto Sociology; *let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our group consciousness.

Let us come before her presence with thanksgiving; *and show ourselves glad in her with

projects. For Sociology is a great Hope; *and a great Light above all Hopes.

In her hand are all the varieties of the experimental method: *and the strength of statistics is hers also. The Social Group is hers, and she

made it: *and her hands prepared the charts thereof. O, come, let us study and fall down: *and let us do case studies before Sociology, our

Guide. For she, is the Maker of all Contacts; *and we are the people of her Adjustments and the sheep of her Complexes.

O, worship Sociology in the beauty of the Group Spirit; *let both the privileged and the underprivileged stand in awe of her. For she cometh, for she cometh to evaluate the earth; "and with statistical measurements to judge the world, and the peoples with an intelligence test.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen."

The Catholic Book Club offers its patrons a March book of unusual interest, "The Vatican: Yesterday - Today - Tomorrow," by George Seldes. The author, says the Club's News letter, "is Jewish, we believe, and therefore not a Catholic propagandist. Let it be said here and now, he writes with a knowledge as complete and an enthusiasm as sincere as that

of a finely informed, devoted Cath-

From all descriptions, the book seems to be a most interesting mine of information on many out of the run topics like the procedure of papal elections, the routine of the Pope's day, the Vatican income and expenditure, the Roman tribunals and offices, the condemnation of books by the Index, the declaration of nullity of marriages (with three famous instances given).

concluding section is The described as "more thought-provoking." To quote from the Nowsletter:

"Here is this ancient Church, which has battled with every sort of government that the ingenuity of man had ever devised before, shown battling with newer forms of modern governments. The Catholic Church and Russia, Mexico. Italy, France, Spain, Germany; the Catholic Church and Mussolini, Lenin, Calles, Hitler; the Catholic Church and Protestantism, Americanism, political parties; the Catholic Church in the midst of this exploding world, all is deftly portrayed as the dominating power which always and everywhere eventually triumphs."

Spiritual Thoughts

To know how to pardon, it is but to remember that one is man. St. Ambrose.

Faith is an exterior conviction. and an evident demonstration -St. Augustine.



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