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MEMBER CATHOLIC PRESS ASSOCIATION

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"I would make any sacrifice, even to the point of my life, to get the Catholic newspaper." - Pope Pius XI.

Editorials

NOT THE SCHOOLS ALONE

From Chicago during the past week has come the news that three little girls have been lured away to secret places and criminally assaulted by larger boys whose ages are nine, thirteen and fifteen. The school authorities of the city have become alarmed and propose to do something about it. They are considering a psychological and psychiatric survey with the purpose in mind of eliminating abnormal children from the schools.

All good citizens wish them well in their efforts. Undoubtedly there are many children of subnormal intelligence in the schools, and many who are of abnormal mentality. And certainly something ought to be done for both classes.

But is it up to the schools to supply the remedy? We may blame the schools for a lot of what is wrong with our children. But there are other influences at work upon the child aside from the teacher and the text book.

First of all, there is the home. Nobody will deny that there has been a great let-up in the American home. The automobile, the movie, the theatre and other forms of diversion, these are not always entertainments, keep the family away from that place that is called home.

Then there is also the newspaper which reports and depicts whatever happens, with specialization upon crime stories. It may be tampering with the right of free speech to forbid the publishing of crimes in our news sheets. But certainly it would not be violating free speech, or any other guaranteed liberty, for parents and guardians to exercise censorship for their own children and wards. And experience and close observation show that children are especially interested in two items of the news, sports and crime. Do children read the news very much? Just ask them!

But probably the greatest influence on the American child is that great American Education, the "Movie." The most conservative estimate places the number of children under fourteen in attendance at the movies during a single week at 11,000,000. In 1930, 72 per cent of all pictures shown dealt with love, sex, and crime, with crime in the vanguard. Children are naturally very imitative. Is it any wonder, then, that juvenile crime such as took place in Chicago last week, occur now and then? It is a wonder that more of them do not occur!

There may be many defects in our schools, but certainly they cannot be accused of encouraging crime. And we are glad that they take the crime situation seriously. But the home must take itself more seriously and it must take the daily journal and the movie much more seriously if we are going to suppress tendencies towards juvenile crime.

USELESS STERILIZATION

Nine women in an Oklahoma State institution were recently ordered to be sterilized on the ground that it would be a protection to the welfare both of the state and of themselves. The fear prevailed that they would become the parents of similar mental defectives or habitual criminals. To get rid of an evil there is nothing like removing its cause. It makes an amusing picture to imagine these stung proponents of sterilization strutting about in the satisfaction of their triumph like the traditional cock of the walk. Or possibly a comparison with Brutus, who killed Caesar out of his overpowering love of the Roman state, would be more apt. The victory of Brutus and the rooster is certainly not less than that of the sterilizers. For, according to the latest studies of the eugenicists, sterilization will not eradicate entirely mental deficiencies and low heredity was exonerated of being the cause of crime.

The British Departmental Committee on Sterilization in its latest report reveals some very interesting facts. Of 1,800 children of mental deficiency and 13 years of age, 40 per cent were sterilized, and of 1,850 children 45 per cent were sterilized over fifty per cent of the fair questionnaires returned. Evidently the sterilizers are not satisfied with their work.

It is not surprising that the sterilizers are not satisfied with their work. The sterilizers are not satisfied with their work. The sterilizers are not satisfied with their work.

so because of birth control! Thus, some of the prevention of mental deficiency is entirely within control of the parents.

Dr. J. H. Landman, speaking before a body of social scientists and biologists in Boston, stated emphatically that human sterilization is in advance of our scientific knowledge of eugenics, and that what the science needs more than anything else is "more research and less propaganda."

A little learning is a dangerous thing. In the face of recent scientific research and authority, it is much to be feared that the authorities in some of our states have only a little learning! Could it be possible that they are taking a vicarious revenge for their own condition of mind?

GREED IN THE MOVIE BUSINESS

Several indications have come to us lately that the movements to bring about a change in the movie situation are at last having a reaction on Hollywood. There is still much to be done in the matter of movie reform. Reliable information says that the Fox, Universal, Columbia and RKO-Radio companies are in line for reform, but not the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer and Warner Companies. The Paramount Company is still uncertain.

Investigation by the Payne Fund students shows that 28,000,000 of the weekly attendants at the movie shows are minors. There certainly must be a considerable number of clients among the adult movie fans who desire clean films, and who have control over the minors. Were they to organize properly, their's would be a powerful voice in the demand for their supply of movies. There has been too much criticism without action on the part of this minority, if it is a minority. Suiting action to the word is the best way of reforming the movie industry. And action will come only in organizing the social forces that are demanding the change, in a concerted effort.

The words of a well-known columnist of one of our dailies, speaking of the conditions of vice in a certain city, can be applied very aptly to the movie situation: "Vice is organized, the opposition is not. Vice pays a dividend; virtue is its own reward." Take away the cash dividends from those firms that still insist on the salacious film and they will find that virtue is not its own reward. When all other means fail with the greedy, money still talks.

Current Comments

CONTINUOUS SACRIFICE

There are 321,000 Catholic priests in the world. Two hundred and fifty-seven thousand are secular priests and 64,000 belong to religious orders. Their distribution throughout the world is as follows: Europe, 252,000; America, 51,500; Asia, 10,300; Africa, 4,800; Australia, 2,200. In this connection, it is interesting to note the following from the writings of Daniel Webster, the eminent statesman of the last century: "Not an instant of time passes that a Mass is not offered and the Host not adored. Talk of an Empire on which the sun never sets; of the British reveille drum ever beating as our planet revolves on its axis, and day chases night around the globe; what is that to the unending oblation of the Catholic Church? What moment is not a priest's voice uttering 'Te igitur, demensissime Pater!' What moment is not counted by the bell which announces the silent and invisible coming of their God to prostrate adorers in some quiet sanctuary, in Europe or in America, in the Atlantic cities or the woods of Oregon, in the Alps or on the Andes, on the vast terra firma all along the meridians or on the scattered islands of the sea?" The Holy Mass is the highest form of worship. It is the Sacrifice of Calvary renewed. One Mass gives God more praise and thanksgiving, makes more atonement for sin and pleads more eloquently than does the combined and eternal worship of all the souls in Heaven, on earth and in Purgatory. In the Holy Mass it is Jesus Christ, God, as well as Man, Who is our Intercessor, our Priest and our Victim. Being God, as well as Man, His prayers, merits and offerings are infinite in value.—Chicago Holy Name Bulletin.

DETIMENT TO JUSTICE

The publicity given criminals by the public press is a very serious detriment to justice. Such publicity keeps the criminals informed of the actions of law officials and in every city the criminal element watches every move and helps the pursued criminals to make a clear getaway. Officers of the law may also be deserving of blame in giving the press inside information. If it be a desire to come into the limelight that is back of their publicity, it is, to say the least, poor policy. The criminal is quick to take advantage of such a situation.—True Voice, Omaha.

WHAT THE N. C. W. IS

It must be clearly understood that the National Council of Catholic Women is a federation; that it does not in any sense interfere with the activity or autonomy of any group; that no program of activities and no suggestion with regard to work within any diocese is ever made without direct approval of the Ordinary; that the special work of the N. C. W. in these early years of its existence is a program of education; that it is seeking to bring home to Catholic Women of the United States, the importance of carrying out the wishes of our Holy Father in striving first for greater personal sanctification, and then active and intelligent co-operation in the great national and international programs of Catholic Action.—Miss Agnes G. Ryan.

Sometimes the pain for debauchery wavers between the filthy picture and the posters which advertise it. So gross are some of these advertisements that they ought to be regarded as a separate department of debauchery.—The Pilot, Boston.

Catholicity in America is no mere abstract philosophy of St. Thomas but a definite program of living.—Dr. W. S. Lohr.

It is not for joy that is better than that of helping a fellow to get on his legs.—The Pilot, Boston.

Diocesan Recordings

Dillinger and his exploits are almost crowding the divorce news off the front pages of the daily newspapers.

Someone expressed surprise to us the other day when told that there are other than Catholics living in Rome. The Italian census of 1931, results of which are being published in sections of the Bureau of Statistics, reveal that there are 388,704 Catholics and 19,540 non-Catholics living in Rome. The non-Catholics are subdivided, as follows: Jews, 10,001; Protestants, 5,834; Greek Orthodox, 744; Moslems, 171; miscellaneous sects, 193; and 1,225 residents who claim no religious affiliation. The Catholics constitute about 98.6 per cent of the city's population.

In the London Universe we note an announcement of the wedding of John Faroy, Westminster Cathedral's lift-man and Miss Ellen Bullock, parlor maid at Westminster Clergy-House. The wedding notice did not interest us so much as did the fact farther down in the story that Mr. Faroy is well-known on Catholic Evidence Guild platforms and at the Catholic Citizens' Parliament, Vauxhall. His occupation has not prevented him from giving time and study to his religion. When we hear Catholic laymen possessed of better than average educational advantages expressing disfavor with movements that seek to stimulate Catholic thought we wonder if they will not be held responsible for not making use of all of their "talents." When Frank Sheed, the publisher and noted Catholic Evidence Guild speaker was in Rochester he told of a charwoman who had become, through their own efforts, excellent exponents of their religion. Too many of us take it for granted that study of our religion ends when the little Catechism is closed in grammar school days.

The bright side of laymen's interest in their religion is seen, however, in reports coming from the Catholic Evidence Library in Columbus Civic Center Building. Young athletic men and women are visiting the Library, we are told, to prepare themselves, when asked questions about their faith in the shops and offices. To show how others may become interested in things athletic, one young man who had been drawing books of the more profound type, recently asked for a bibliography for a change and received the intensely interesting one of Father William Doyle, S. J. English, Army Chaplain, who Alfred O'Rahilly, the young man took the book to his place of business and opened it up in front of business associates. A fellow-worker, not a Catholic, noticed the book and became intensely interested because over in France as a member of the Canadian forces, the non-Catholic had known Father Doyle. This heroic Jesuit priest's life, by the way, is worth reading by all.

A small pamphlet, easy to slip in our pocket, was received this week from The Queen's Work Press. It is entitled "His Christ or War," and is from the pen of Father Daniel A. Lord, S. J. being heard, Sunday evenings on the Catholic Hour. We shall not attempt to review the pamphlet which contains vital facts of interest to all who read the war scare news daily. The story in the pamphlet concerns a priest, and a young couple who meet at luncheon and during the conversation that ensues reveal highly interesting facts from history relative to wars. The dialogue is snappy. Using mathematical calculations, the priest in the story points out that with zero representing complete peace, history shows that the twelfth century was rated 2.7 and that the first quarter of our century rises to 13,735.98 in international disturbances. Catholic thought on international conflicts is interestingly brought out in a manner that is most impressive.

In his column "From the Managing Editor's Desk," Patrick F. Scanlon, sole editor of the Brooklyn Tablet said last week: "The Holy Name men of the Diocese of Rochester, with their Bishop attending, adopted strong resolutions favoring State aid for all schools. Among the other resolutions adopted was a practical plan for aiding the diocesan paper, The Courier, which has within the past year become more attractive, readable and successful than before." Coming from one whose standing in the Catholic press field is so high, the staff of your diocesan paper will be pardoned, we are sure, if they conjuncture a pleasant glow of satisfaction over efforts made to produce a diocesan newspaper of merit.

Perhaps your garden will turn out well this spring, but isn't it just possible that attendance at the free lectures to be given by Mr. Schuler Arnold, an authority in Columbus Civic Center Building starting Friday evening, will enable you to plant, cultivate and see your garden grow even better if you miss the lectures? Plan to attend the first lecture, at least.

STRANGE BUT TRUE Catholic Facts But Little Known

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Illustration featuring Raphael, Pagan Chinese Watch Makers, Pope Pius IX, and a religious service in Australia. Text includes: 'RAPHAEL DEPICTS FIVE HOPEFULLY-LOVED SAINTS IN THIS PICTURE REPRESENTING ST. CECILIA, ST. CATHERINE, ST. MARGARET, ST. ANNE, ST. JOSEPH AND ST. MARTIN. ST. CECILIA WAS THE FIRST MARY, ST. CATHERINE WAS THE FIRST MARY, ST. MARGARET WAS THE FIRST MARY, ST. ANNE WAS THE FIRST MARY, ST. JOSEPH WAS THE FIRST MARY, ST. MARTIN WAS THE FIRST MARY.' 'PAGAN CHINESE WATCH MAKERS. CELEBRATE THE FEAST OF LI MATAO EACH YEAR - AND LI MATAO IS THE CHINESE NAME FOR FR. RAYMOND ST. GREAT JESUIT ASTRONOMER TO THE IMPERIAL COURT IN THE 17th CENTURY.' 'POPE PIUS IX. HE WROTE A BOOK OF 1000 PAGES ON THE DIGNITY OF THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT, WASHINGTON, DC. IN 1853.' 'RELIGIOUS SERVICES - NON-CATHOLIC. HAVE BEEN HELD INSIDE THIS TREE TRUNK AT GLENYAH, VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA. BUT IT WAS STOLEN AND DESTROYED BY BIGOTS.'

THE LIBRARY SIGN POST

Every farthing of profit from Tuesday night's card party will be used to purchase news books for the C. E. Library, especially novels, of which up to now too few have been on its shelves. ... It may seem rather a paradox that a library should appeal for funds to a source of entertainment which is notorious for keeping people from reading. But there is consolation in humoring oneself with the fancy that the players at the Library card party were not pinocchio or bridge devotees casually interested in helping a literary apologetic, but ardent readers taking an evening off to combine recreation for themselves with profit for a good cause.

When King Edwn of Northumbria heard the Gospel in the year 627, he called a council of his thanes and eldersmen to debate the matter with them. The following short speech, given by one of his counselors and recorded by St. Bede in his "Ecclesiastical History of the English Nation", ought to put the bridge of restraint on any tongue which is tempted to fall in line with the glib and thoughtless assertion that everything "went back beyond" the Middle Ages was sunk in ignorances and barbarism:

"The present life of men on earth, O King, appears to me, in comparison with that time which is unknown to us, like the swift flight of a sparrow through your hall, where you, with your ealder, men and thanes, sit by the fire, at supper, in winter. The hall is warmed, without are storms of wind and rain and winter's snow. The sparrow passes swiftly in at one door and out at another, gaining while a short stay from the wintry blast; but soon after a little calm he flies once more into the unknown, passing from winter to winter again. So this life of ours appears for a moment, but whence or whether we are wending we know not. If, therefore, this new faith can teach us aught more sure, it seems truly to deserve to be followed."

What an eerie shadow along the roots of the soul in the last line of this epitaph: This quiet mound beneath Lies Corporal Fynn. He had no fear of death: Nor Death of him.

Some people have the impression that before modern "psychology" nothing much had been done to probe the mystery of personality. They pin their faith on the current psychological pronouncements that man is the heir apparent of brute ancestors, a composite of sensual and appetites, of moods and behaviors, the prey of heredity and environment. Is this the vast revelation which the twentieth century is to add to the treasury of the world's immemorial wisdom? Is this one of the boasts of a "century of progress?"

Why not be fair to the past? Why assume that the generations of the past could know nothing of human nature merely because Haeckel and Freud and Adler were not yet born? And after all, don't Haeckel and Freud seem Lilliputian against the formidable bulk of such giants of the long-gone centuries as Plato and Aristotle and Thomas Aquinas? In those past centuries men of genius knew how to use their reason: Why let the cackle of our own barnyard strut out from our ears their majestic voices? Is it not perhaps because some of the men and women of our day wish their desire for irresponsible living to be flattered by the easygoing doctrines of behaviorism and Freudianism?

Aristotle and Thomas Aquinas had much to say on the nature of human personality. Much of what is now called abnormal psychology was obscure to them; in fact they would have been among the first (were they alive) to hail whatever genuine light modern researches are casting upon this mysterious borderland of human knowledge. But they knew the essence and normal workings of personality, and gave the world the fruits of their wisdom.

Today there are men who, while giving due recognition to genuine discoveries of the present, see no reason to give up the learning of the past. They wish to correlate these contemporary discoveries with the fundamental principles of the ancient wisdom. Among them is Dr. Albert, a Viennese physician and a disciple of Adler, who has set himself to explain the objective findings of the new psychology in the light of the profound

philosophy of Thomas Aquinas. His book "The Psychology of Character" is a cogent proof that there is no real conflict between the authentic philosophy of today and the authentic philosophy of the past. This book is one of the real treasures of the C. E. Library.

THE ISSUE OF COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

The argument of the employers that the so-called company union accords with the letter and spirit of the N.R.A. will not stand up under nonsect scrutiny. A company union is not a union such as is required under the terms of true collective bargaining. Organizations of this kind are designed primarily to protect and further the interests of the employer. By their very constitution they are concerned only secondarily with the interests of the workers.—The Providence Visitor.

NICE SCENERY

Crocodiles, hippos and other dangerous animals forced the Marchioness missionaries to shift their new mission St. Agidius on the bank of the Zambezi River to a safe site on a hill removed from the river. Swarms of mosquitos and a terrible heat wave have invaded the region, but the missionaries, ready to find in every dark cloud a silver lining, say that the scenery is magnificent.—The Church World.

Mary is the universal dispenser of all graces.—Bl. Albert.

The gifts of the Holy Spirit dispose all the faculties of the soul to submit themselves to the divine impulse.—St. Thomas.

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