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"I would make any sacrifice, even to the burning of my ribs, to put the cross and the sun, in order to support a Catholic newspaper."—Pope Pius X.

Editorials

MR. WARNER PROTESTS

Harry Warner, executive of the Warner Brothers Film National film producing corporation, lately made the charge that the action of His Eminence, Cardinal Dougherty, Archbishop of Philadelphia, in barring "movies" is "un-American." In answer to this charge, the Most Rev. Gerald P. O'Hara, Auxiliary Bishop of Philadelphia, replies: "If Mr. Warner had read the letter of His Eminence, Cardinal Dougherty, which was promulgated in all the churches of this diocese, he would not have given what is a false impression. This letter makes it quite plain that the signing of the pledge of the Legion of Decency is voluntary. Here are the words of His Eminence: 'The faithful, including the school children, are to be urged to sign them.' The word 'urged' makes the matter clear. 'Cardinal Dougherty, however, further stated: 'Since a very large proportion of the present screen plays are dangerous to faith and morals, they are a proximate occasion of sin, and as such must be avoided at any cost. To stay away from them, therefore, is not merely a counsel but a positive command, binding all in conscience under pain of sin.' 'In these sentences His Eminence is doing more than giving, as it is his duty to give, a practical decision based upon a general principle of Catholic moral teaching. It is always wrong and sinful willfully to place one's self in an occasion of sin, because it is an evidence of bad intention. 'The judgment of the Cardinal in this particular instance is limited to the present screen plays that are dangerous to faith and morals. That such screen plays exist is beyond question, and it has always been sinful to attend them, even independently of and antecedent to any ecclesiastical pronouncement. Cardinal Dougherty has merely pointed out a fact that held true long before any campaign of decency was inaugurated. If he has asked the members of his flock to abstain from all motion pictures, good and bad alike, it is because in his judgment, such a measure is the only one likely to prove effective in bringing about a wholesome change in the products of the motion picture industry, and in bringing it about quickly. He is perfectly aware of the solemn promises made and broken time and again in the past by those in control of the motion picture output. 'The decision of Cardinal Dougherty cannot be called un-American, as Mr. Warner is alleged to have described it. The American people have, until recently, exercised a healthy supervision over public amusements. Even now, the vast numbers of Catholics who have voluntarily signed the pledge of the Legion of Decency, and the thousands of non-Catholics who have spontaneously applauded the action of the Catholic Church and joined the Legion of Decency, demonstrate the fact that there is a decided revolt against much of the product of the motion picture industry and that people generally will not accept the dictates of a minority as to what they shall see and hear when they enter a motion picture theater. 'To inject the question of unemployment into the issue is to draw a herring across the trail. Few will be deceived by the move, for it is not forgotten how ungenerously the musicians were discharged from work in motion picture theaters a few years ago when sound pictures came into vogue. Present solicitude is in sharp contrast with what happened in the past. 'Loss of employment will depend upon the action of film producers themselves, who have frequently pledged their word to abide by a code of morals that has been accepted by average decent-minded people."

WEIGHTY OPINION OPPOSES

Due to certain unfortunate factors and influences, it is the present time burdened with an unusually large number of mentally and physically defective individuals. How to prevent and increase their kind, has attracted considerable attention. The publication of the study of the causes of the unit is the first step towards the attainment of the purpose of raising the standard of extreme debility of the human race. We are assured that charity shall never pass away. Even though charitable agencies at the present time seem overwhelmed, they must survive and keep alive in themselves the spirit that, sometime in the future, will place on the major burdens of their holy calling.—New World.

does not hesitate to characterize this practice as a "method scientifically absurd and tantamount to cowardly violence exercised on defenceless human beings."

The doctor contends, Sterilization is a product of Eugenics, a science developed by Sir Francis Galton, about 1912, on the basis of Nietzsche's ideas on the "superman" and the "human parasite." The object of Eugenics is, according to him, the struggle against degeneration of the white races, and Sterilization is one of its main weapons. Based on the success obtained by breeders of animals, the science assumes erroneously that the methods employed by them may be used on human beings with the same measure of success. Dr. Lowenthal, however, rightly insists, that while breeders have absolute control over their subjects at all times, in addition to freedom of choice between the animals they wish to breed, the methods they employ are "obviously inapplicable to human beings, who so far refuse to obey other laws except that of love and of interest. Therefore, the offspring even of selected human couples runs the risk of bastardization through promiscuousness with undesirables."

"Even admitting the impossible," Dr. Lowenthal continues, "namely that nothing will intervene to contaminate or negatively affect the various qualities of physically and intellectually irreproachable couples—although the two attributes do not by any means always go hand in hand—have we any guarantee that their offspring will be of the same high quality? No, we have not, because the fundamental law of human heredity rules that the transmission of all positive and negative moral, intellectual, and physical forces is hardly ever direct, but that it manifests itself sometimes (only) after a few centuries..."

The author, however, by no means exaggerates or minimizes the influence of heredity, but seeks to be objective. "Geniuses," he declares, "do not fall from heaven. We have numerous examples of great men born from mediocre and inferior parents and bringing into the world mediocre and inferior children." Michelangelo's mother is referred to as one of the last persons of whom so gifted a son could have been expected; "Beethoven's father was a drunkard, Goethe's father a hereditary psychopath, whose brother died at 18 as an idiot and who therefore presented all necessary indications for sterilization. Byron's heredity was terrible. Victor Hugo's sons were in no way outstanding and his only daughter was mentally deficient. Wagner the genius and Cosima Liszt, daughter of another genius, produced the mediocrity that was Siegfried Wagner."

From these and other premises—Dr. Lowenthal makes much of the history of Goethe's progenitors and descendants—the author concludes: "In the case of animals Sterilization prevents the procreation of inferior animals. 'But if you sterilize human beings you positively ignore what you are suppressing. Buried in the innermost recesses of his being man carries all the heredity, all positive and negative forces handed down to him by his ancestors, trillions of cells. If hereditary transmission were direct, every human being would be an artist, thinker, craftsman, rolled into one, and at the same time he would indulge (should read: would be severely tempted to indulge, Ed.) in all the crimes and vices inherited from his ancestral brutes. In reality, only an infinitesimal part of his hereditary mass ever sees realization, while the bulk remains latent..."

"This fundamental law of human heredity is responsible for the great physical, moral and intellectual variety of the human species. It is the reason why Sterilization could never be anything but a hazard game, in which the race might perhaps win something, by purging some of the future generations from a certain number of undesirable, but in which it might lose enormous possibilities in the way of producing geniuses." Add to this the ethical consideration of the injustice of Sterilization, and substitute the thought of "bad" for "undesirable," and of "good" men and women for "geniuses," and the scope of the argument is vastly enlarged and its force strengthened. Dr. Lowenthal is indeed warranted, even from his own premises, in speaking of Sterilization as the "road to folly," and in declaring, the cases cited by him would alone "be sufficient forever to condemn Sterilization."

No one has ever reached a goal of merely personal ambition without loss to himself; no one can ever grasp a coveted distinction without becoming smaller, meaner, less noble.—John Ayscough.

Of all the dispositions and habits that lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports.—George Washington.

"Individualism, as against nature, is sound, but, as against men, it is disastrous." This distinction by the Rev. Francis J. Haas is an excellent criterion for judging many current effusions about liberty and "rugged individualism."—Michigan Catholic.

If there is one thing perfectly certain in the Catholic religion it is that there are no favorites in the Kingdom of God. All peoples are invited to join, and all are equally welcome as God's children. Neither blood, race, nor color counts.—New World.

"70,000,000 citizens of this Republic today are ignorant even of the A. B. C. of religion, while the religious convictions of millions more are so vague and indefinite that they neither influence their conduct or offer them any spiritual support."—Bishop Neill.

We are assured that charity shall never pass away. Even though charitable agencies at the present time seem overwhelmed, they must survive and keep alive in themselves the spirit that, sometime in the future, will place on the major burdens of their holy calling.—New World.

Happy is the man who loves his neighbor equally when he is absent and when he is present, and who never says a word behind his back that would not be said to his face.—St. Basil.

Diocesan Recordings

Tell your neighbor—who is not now taking the CATHOLIC COURIER, diocesan newspaper—to give welcome and interested hearing to the Holy Name men when they call in their campaign for new readers starting Sunday.

Neither the heat nor a lazy streak prompts us to quote the item below from the pen of the Holy Father, Pope Pius XI. We know we cannot say the same thing as well. Writing on the Catholic Press, the Supreme Pontiff said recently: "Here is a field of apostolate worthy of all the solicitude and interest of good Catholics. They can never cultivate the Catholic Press enough, and according to the care with which they will prepare, so will the beneficial fruits be abundant. With this apostolate they will obtain precious results of averting the evil effects of a poisonous press that propagates things that should be banished not only by culture but also by civilization. "Here then is a large field for apostolic activity, since the widespread reading of a good Press is a great good and the spread of the reading of a bad press is a great evil. Especially for this activity do we rely on the collaboration of the laity, and we are confident of the final result, because Catholic Action will revive the times of apostolic preaching in the world when St. Paul gave the laity the order of the day and recommended the Church to them."

Holy Name Society members of the diocese responding to their Bishop's assignment to do the very thing emphasized by the Holy Father will gain great inspiration from the above. All the laity will co-operate to make this important phase of Catholic Action in our diocese successful beyond expectation. Evidence of how lightly the marriage contract is held by the motion picture stars is contained in a reported statement made by Verree Toasdale whose forthcoming marriage (?) to Adolphe Menjou has been given great prominence in the secular press. Verree is reported saying that she was married once before. When asked how many times Adolphe has been married, she is quoted as saying: "I don't know, but it doesn't make any difference." How can the marriage tie be held an indissoluble bond by the thousands who witness these and other stars on the screen when the stars, themselves, brazenly boast that "it doesn't make any difference."

At the recent flower show in Rochester, a friend suggested that school boys should be made to take an interest in the grounds about the school, taught the importance of shrubbery, flowers and lawns, and be given the care of the grounds with the idea in mind that so taught they might now be apt to destroy other people's property. From Denver comes an item this week, saying that a corps of boys in Holy Family high school there volunteered to labor in the summer vacation to improve and beautify the high school grounds. The article states that "it happened—though we never thought it would—the boys have gone back to school in vacation time!" That angle though humorous is not so important as is the fact that these boys are getting an appreciation of landscaping and gardening which will round out the subjects learned during the school year later on.

Coincidences in the news come to our attention often. Recently a man jumped over Smith Street bridge in Rochester, falling a distance of over 100 feet and is living to tell about it as it is written. From London comes a story that a man falling from a height of 60 feet, while cleaning the windows of the Carmelite Church, Kensington, was caught by his clothing on the spikes of an iron railing and suffered only a scratch and bruises. And there are those who deny the existence of a Guardian Angel.

Sacrificing time in preparation, time, voice, money and effort in the conducting, hundreds of parishioners are engaged in various enterprises to aid their parish church. It is a most creditable thing to find people in the parish ready and willing to assist the pastor in his work. This item is a salute to the volunteer parish worker. May he and her tribe increase.

We know the children will not want to be reminded now that school time is drawing near, but for the parents we think this statement of Bishop McNulty of Leicester, England, is worth reading a couple of times. At Ratchcliffe College, Speech day recently Bishop McNulty said: "I often wonder if there is not a danger in this land of shopkeepers of producing children who know the price of everything and the value of nothing. If I were the father of a family I should want to see the staff of a school before the children. The most important thing is the psychological effect between the teacher and the boy. This is a great principle which seems to have been missed in education."

STRANGE BUT TRUE Catholic Facts But Little Known

By M. J. MURRAY

THE LIBRARY SIGN POST

A year ago the Catholic Book of the Month Club picked a novel by a Frenchman for its July choice. It was "Vipers' Tangle," by Francois Mauriac. The July choice for this year suggests a coincidence. It is another novel, this one by a Spanish woman, Concha Espina, and bears a beautiful title, "The Woman and the Sea." Reports about the new novel so far lead one to expect that it will read with the same lavish enthusiasm on the one hand and with the same guarded antipathy on the other hand as was "Vipers' Tangle."

As the weaver of tales watches the rapt and sincere intensity of those listening faces, he glimpses what was in the mind of Christ when He said, "Unless you become as little children, you shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven."

Reading for pleasure? Yes, why not, even among many Catholic books? Reading for penance? Well, read this pertinent passage of Fr. Martindale on the matter of carrying our cross: "I am convinced that sheer study of the Faith is the cross indicated for many. 'I hate Catholic books, Catholic Journals bore me. I never read.' For a generation of Catholics educated in all but their Faith is excellent material for all modern heresies. Only tonight I was asked, with all sorts of previous apologies: 'Do you really believe all that? Isn't your tongue ever in your cheek?' 'All what?' 'Well, the Immaculate Conception, Transubstantiation.' I asked my questioner what exactly he might suppose those words to mean. HE DID NOT KNOW. He really did suppose the former to mean the Virgin Birth; the latter, some sort of chemical change. Badly instructed? Of course. But if one's Catholic education is not carried on after childhood, badly instructed is just what one becomes. I would like a lot of penance to be done in the sheer matter of reading, not in spite of one's not liking it, but because one does not like it."

Greta Garbo a while ago played the role of the Swedish Queen Christina. Apart from the moral issue, the film was poor history, according to Dr. James J. Walsh in a "Commonweal" article, "The Movies and History." He says that "the biography of the Swedish Queen as presented was about as much of a caricature of her real biography as it could possibly be." Those of you who would like to read a short and engaging account of the life of this Lutheran daughter...

Though the authoress of "The Woman and the Sea" is not a Catholic, her book is judged to be in the great Catholic tradition.

"Religion has two sides, a severe side, and a beautiful; and we shall be sure to swerve from the narrow way which leads to life, if we indulge ourselves in what is beautiful while we put aside what is severe."

(From the sermon of Cardinal Newman).

Did you ever tell stories to children? "I often wonder if there is not a danger in this land of shopkeepers of producing children who know the price of everything and the value of nothing. If I were the father of a family I should want to see the staff of a school before the children. The most important thing is the psychological effect between the teacher and the boy. This is a great principle which seems to have been missed in education."

ter of Gustavus Adolphus who became a Catholic and so resigned her throne in favor of her cousin, are invited to read this article by Dr. Walsh. It is in the current issue of the "Commonweal," and may be found on the reading table of the Catholic Evidence Library. It is a challenge to the Hollywood producers to respect the verities of history, and to be a conspicuous exception to the human rule which Shakespeare noted in the famous lines: "The evil that men do lives after them; The good is oft interred with their bones."

BOREDOM AND DISILLUSIONMENT

Boredom and disillusionment, as every mature man and woman knows, are two of the most persistent obstacles that bar the road to happiness. Their prevalence today, even among youthful groups, is one of the most significant phases of life. The sad truth is that for many, still in their teens, existence has already lost its savor. They have not been taught to look at life as a whole, embracing distinct periods, childhood, adolescence, and maturity, which must be lived fully in their turn, so as to permit the gradual development of mind and body. In recent years the tendency has been to force this development prematurely with the result that we have adolescents who pride themselves on their cynicism, who snarl that life holds nothing worth waiting for—Southern Messenger, Texas.

"Everything that is not God is unworthy of man."

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