Better Housing -:- FOR THE HOMEMAKER -:- Household Hints

Auburn Mayor Opens 'Carnival of Mirth'

Auburn—Mayor Kirk Bowen and other city officials formally opened the "Carnival of Mirth" Monday evening at Recreation Center, Water Street. The carnival, held all this week for the benefit of St. Alphonsus Church, is sponsored by the Holy Name Society of St. Alphonsus Church Rev. Frederick G. Straub, the pastor, is spiritual director and Stephen H. Baier is president of the society.

Following an address by Mayor Bowen, a concert was presented by the St. Alphonsus Church Circle No 112 Columbian Squires band. The bazaar is open to the public each evening with special entertainment as the feature.

FROM RETREATS TO MISSIONS

New York—(JMS)—Father John H. McCummiskey, S. J., of the Oregon Province, former Director of the Laymen's Retreat League of Los Angeles, California, has been appointed as Associate Editor to "Jesuit Missions," an illustrated monthly representing the work of over five hundred American and Canadian Jesuit missionaries in thirteen mission fields scattered throughout the world.

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BELIEVE IT - - - Not

By REV. OWEN B. McGUIRE, D.D.

COLLEGE PROFESSOR'S CHAPEL DISCOURSES ATHEISTIC TEACHING IN COLLEGE CITED 'FEAR AND TERROR' AMONG CATHOLICS

In the recent address of President Conant of Harvard, there were two statements to which I took exception. The first of these was that "scientists" are hampered or even threatened, in their work, by certain "groups" (he did not name them) who hold certain "dogmas" and who are afraid that further investigations and discoveries in the field of science will undermine these dogmas. The other statement referred to the suppression of the monasteries (at the time of the Reformation), in which it was clear that Professor Conant thinks the monasteries were destroyed, looted and plundered by an uprising of the people, of the "mob", to use his own expression

That second statement is certainly false historically, and especially false with respect to the suppression of the Religious Houses in England, the country which President Conant probably had in mind in addressing the students of Amherst. But this historic fallacy we can discuss on some other occasion Let us consider his first statement.

Undermine Belief

The learned Professor's words imply that the discoveries of science, as they are now being revealed, are incompatible with the "dogmas" of the certain "groups," and it is not straining the meaning of his words to conclude that he means the "dogmas" of Christianity, for these are practically the only "dogmas" that we have in this country. And this is, moreover, the constant theme of a great many of the "scientists" among us. When they do not state it openly, they usually imply it; and in this manner they are undermining whatever belief in a Divine Revelation there is left in the minds of non-Catholic youth.

It is, accordingly, a very serious matter, for these young men and young women who attend our American colleges, such as Amherst, and Universities, such as Harvard cannot be expected to see the fallacies in the discourses of these learned men, to distinguish between what are the discoveries of science and what are the false conclusions or assumptions drawn from these discoveries, between what physics show from experiment and observation and what metaphysics can by the use of right reason conclude from what experiment and observation have shown us.

It is truly saddening to contemplate this trend in our American civilization, and one is forced to ask himself the question, whither, as a nation, are we drifting, and where are we going to land The Bible is now discarded at the Universities, the chapel is used to preach rank Atheism under a cloak of high-sounding terminology, and it is all relayed by the daily press

Denies Creation

These reflections arise from reading the other day the report of a lecture delivered in the chapel of the University of Chicago by Professor William D. McMillan There never has been a creation, he is reported as saying "Everything that now exists has always existed" And he continued "Implied in this assumption is the belief that everything that now exists has grown from some previous form or element, and that every branch of life has set up its own history. With confidence in this belief that the activities of nature will not change, we can look into the future and the unknown without the fear and terror that have always been upon us because of the thought that spirits with an external province of control exist and must be propitiated"

And that is what the students of Chicago are told in the chapel of the university. Only yesterday all of us, Catholics and non-Catholics, took a Chapel to mean a place of worship, a place where we worshiped God, said our prayers to Him and heard His word explained to us Today Professor McMillan uses it to tell his young audience that there is no God! We are entirely independent of any "Spirit" to whom we are responsible for our free acts This idea which Christianity taught us has been exploded Then we lived "in fear and terror" of what might befall us if we did wrong Now we are emancipated. "Implied in this 'assumption' is the belief that we can with confidence look into the future" (if indeed there is a future for us) without fear of any Being higher than ourselves existing or acting "in an external province of control"

Notice first of all that Professor McMillan begins by making an assuption". Immediately the assumption becomes a "belief" and the belief immediately becomes a "dogma" so sweeping that it relegates to the discarded dust-bin of superstitions all the old doctrines in which we believed before the arrival of the new "scientists" Now we know it Christianity has been a myth for 1900 years

Softens Attack

Then notice that the Professor's language is, in truth, not honest That is a hard saying But is it not true? His discourse is pure Atheism as rank as that preached by the Anti-God propagandists of the Soviet Republics But if he used their language it would scandalize his youthful audience They might be shocked Had he said St Paul was an ignorant and superstitious Jew when he said "in fear and trembling work out your salvation, some of the young men and women among his hearers might remember the reverence with which the Bible used to be read in their homes

Had he said that Christ himself was a deluded visionary when he said, "I am the Way the Truth and the Life", and that it is only such leaders of progress and science as Doctor McMillan who can tell us what "life" really means they might be horrified at the blasphemy and protest against using the chapel for an attack on the Christian religion and on the most consoling teachings they received from their parents Such honest, out-spoken language would not suit the purpose But the purpose remains, just the same as that of the Bolshevists of Moscow, that religion is a dope, that God himself is a myth, that Christ was a visionary that the Bible is out of date Professor McMillan's tactics are just parallel to the tactics of the Communists in those countries where the mass of the people are not yet prepared to accept the full and frank gospel of Moscow

In those countries it must be introduced under the high sounding names of "social justice," "anti-imperialism," "anti-capitalism," "the emancipation of the working classes" and etc. Even in Ireland the other day a Communist orator from London addressing a convention declared, "You are told that Communism is contrary to religion But don't believe that rot." No doubt, if Professor McMillan had been called to order for preaching Atheism, or for denouncing Christianity he would have replied: "Why I did not even mention religion, nor God nor Christ nor St. Paul, nor the Bible" "That is all." Can I, therefore, say truly that the language of Professor McMillan is honest?

Only Religion Known

There is something else worth notice in that excerpt from the Professor's address. I had told you on another occasion how the Bible had been made a fetish, the sole source of all knowledge and authority in religious matters, to be interpreted by the individual. This tradition produced dire results. Those who became heirs to it identified this tradition with Christianity, and in rejecting it as untenable believed they had disproved Christianity It was the only religion they had known.

They had never known the true basis on which the Christian religion rests. Hence Hilaire Belloc says very truly that Wells, a professed Atheist, is "a Bible Christian who has lost his God" The kind of God that such people have lost depends on the peculiar character of the sect in whose tradition they were nurtured

It is plain from Doctor McMillan's words that his peculiar background was Calvinism. "We can," he says, "look into the future and the unknown without the fear and terror that have always been upon us because the thought that spirits with an external province of control exist and must be propitiated" If the statement had been frank and honest he would have said because we believed God "exists and must be propitiated". Such belief caused only fear and terror' What a conception of God' But it is thoroughly Calvinistic

The little McMillan must in his childhood have conceived of God as a tyrant. He must have lived "in fear and terror," not knowing whether he was among the "saved" or the damned, nor how he could "propitiate the Spirit with external control" And what a conception, too, of the meaning and of the history of Christianity. Had Professor McMillan ever been taught that God is a Father a Father of infinite goodness, infinite love and infinite mercy" That we are his children? Had he ever read and understood the Sermon on the Mount: "For your Father Knoweth what is needful for you before you ask Him" "Behold the birds of the air . . . and your heavenly Father feedeth them Are not you of much more value than they? . . . Ask and it shall be given to you, seek and you shall find, knock and it shall be opened to you Or what man is there among you, of whom if his child ask bread will he reach him a stone? How much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to them that ask them?" Do these and such teachings strike us with "fear and terror? "Or what conception did Professor McMillan have of the Christian religion when he lived in the fear and terror always upon us?"

Any More Joyful

And what conception had he, or has he of the history of Christianity? Are there any more joyful people in the world, or have there ever been any more joyful people in the history of the human race than the people of the Catholic countries of Europe, where the full doctrine of Christ was received and put in practice" Has Professor McMillan ever visited even in this country, where he wants us to get rid of fear and terror," our Catholic schools, convents, confraternities social and religious assemblies of any kind? Or has he noticed in us these symptoms of this horrid fear and terror as we go about our daily duties?

Nor is that all It is not a question merely of doctrine and 'dogma." It is eminently a question of morals If there is no God if there is no sanction for our free acts, if we are self-sufficient and independent of all "external control", why should not the young men and women of the Chicago Chapel give free rein to "nature" to "life" "every branch of which sets up its own history?" It is truly an outlook that should strike us with fear, if not with terror

We had the same "scientific" dogmatism during the whole latter half of the 19th century, and the basis on which the professors of that time built their conclusions has been swept into the dust-bin by the professors of to-day Huxley, Spencer, Sir Oliver Lodge (who is still alive and an advocate now of Spirit-rapping!) have not been left a leg to stand on Fifty years hence there may be another conception of "life" and of the Universe. Professor McMillan and I will not be here to see it.

But one thing is certain: The Church of Christ will be here and her teaching and sacraments will produce not fear and terror but joy and consolation as they do to-day and have done for nineteen centuries We can look into the future with confidence and without fear or terror. But no serious, thinking man or woman can look without sadness into the present where such doctrines as those of Professor McMillan are preached to the youth of our country from the pulpits that were intended to be used to preach the doctrines of Christianity

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(This Space Contributed by the Catholic Courier)

Nazareth Girls Plan Valentine Party at College Friday Evening

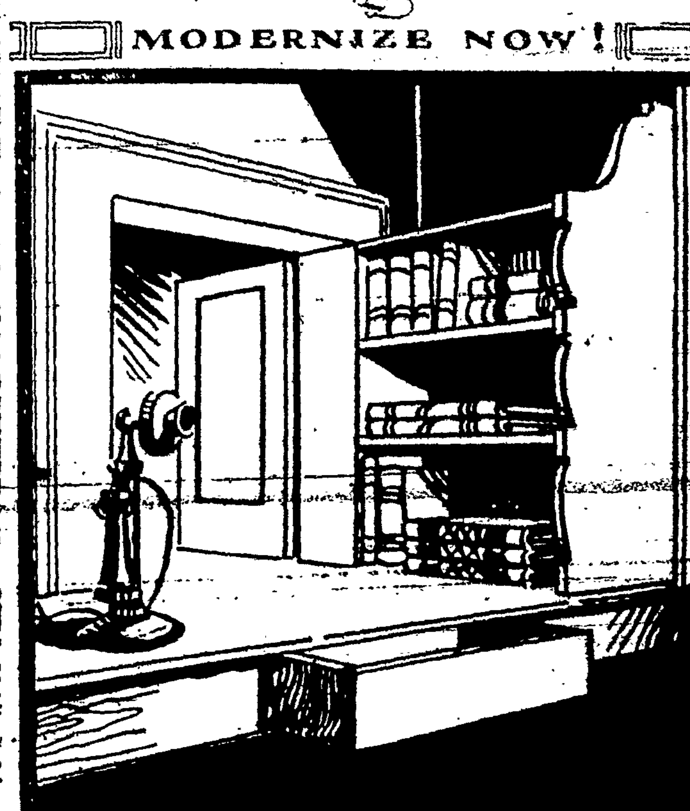
With true identity hidden behind a mask of gay Valentine decorations, the Nazareth College assembly room will be the scene of the formal Valentine Social, to be held by the Senior Class on Friday evening, Feb 15.

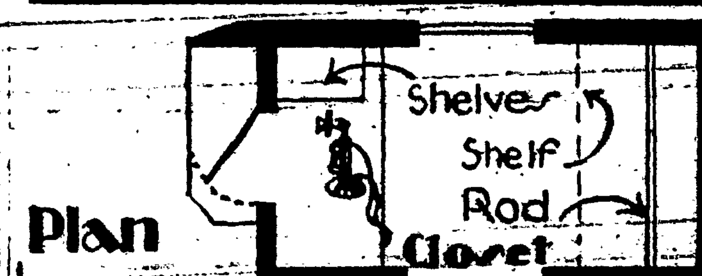
Kathleen Whitfield, president of the class and general chairman of the dance has appointed the following committee heads. Reception: Viola Vria and Mary Sammons, co-chairmen. Decorations Bernice Ginnity and Rose Pizzaferrato, co-chairmen, Ballroom Adelaide Brennan and Elinor Roche, co-chairmen, Program: Betty Doyle and Mary Thaney, co-chairmen. Orchestra. Winifred Murphy and Virginia Wimer, co-chairmen, Refreshments: Mary Nolan and Loretta Enright, co-chairmen

HOME IMPROVEMENTS

by Paul T. Haagen, A.I.A.

MODERNIZE NOW!





COMFORTABLE TELEPHONING

HOW often have you wished for a convenient, comfortable, sound-proof telephone closet!

Any closet can be used for this purpose If it is used for coats, place at one end a shelf for hats above a coat rod At the opposite end build a counter 24 inches wide and 30 inches above the floor on which the telephone will set. Below the counter provide a shallow drawer for pads and pencils. At one end of the counter build a set of shelves to hold directories and address books.

If this closet is so located that an opening in one wall will connect with the kitchen or rear hall, cut an opening about 14 inches wide and 20 inches high. Provide a door for the opening.

You now have a most convenient arrangement—a great step saver—for the telephone can be answered from either the front or rear of the house, and in privacy.

Both bathroom and kitchen fixtures can now be bought reasonably in a variety of colors ranging from pastel pinks, ivories and yellows to distinctive reds, blues, and blacks, as well as in a variety of marbelized effects. Innumerable combinations and subtle blendings can be evolved that reflect the personality of the home.

WATERPROOF CELLAR

Cellars are damp and mostly primarily because materials used for their wall construction — stone, cement and brick are all more or less porous and absorptive. Dampproofing can be done inexpensively by applying sheet copper or other materials to the walls and floor of the cellar by means of asphalt or pitch The house is thus made healthful and its value increased.

Niagara U. Organizes Dramatic Society

The Dramatic Society of Rochester Division, Niagara University School of Business will present its first annual play on Friday evening, March 1 at 8 15 at the German Club, 315 Gregory Street.

The group directed by John Barrow will stage "Three Taps at Twelve", a comedy mystery play in three acts by Allan Saunders. Music for a social following the play will be furnished by the Ambassadors. Advance sale of tickets to date indicates a wide-spread interest in the activities of the new organization

Large Card Party Set By Rosarians Feb. 19 In Holy Rosary Hall

Rosarians of Holy Rosary Church are completing arrangements for a large card party to be held Tuesday evening, Feb 19 in the school hall

Various games of cards will be played pivot style and prizes awarded the winners

Mrs. Joseph Coppinger, president of the organization has appointed Mrs Andrew Mayer of Kislingbury Street as general chairman with following committees assisting

Reception, Mrs Eugene McCarthy, Mrs William Rehberg, Mrs Frank Rief, Mrs Fred Schuhmehl, Mrs Edwin Reiter Mrs William Kreckel, Mrs Victor Thibault, and Miss Edith Lennon

Cards and tallies, Mrs Julius Noll, chairman, Mrs. John Murphy, Mrs James Donohoe, Mrs Nicholas Rick, Mrs Alexander McDonough, Mrs Fred Ryan, Mrs James Siard, Mrs Felix Volkmar, Mrs Patrick Kane Miss Grace Leavens and Miss Alice Masseth

Prizes will be selected by Mrs Anthony Bierschmitt and committee Publicity is in charge of Mrs Mrs Raymond Jeffery Tickets and finance, Mrs Francis Troy and Mrs Frank Sullivan Refreshments, Mrs Wilfred Maxwell, chairman, and committee

Friends of the parish are invited

Reunion Smoker Mapped By C.Y.M.A. Feb. 20th

The Catholic Young Men's Association of St. Joseph's Church will hold a re-union smoker Wednesday, Feb 20, at 8 30 in the club's gymnasium, 51 Franklin Square

This affair, for members and friends, promises to surpass all previous smokers the club has held Boxing, wrestling, vaudeville, refreshments and several surprise stunts will be on the evening's program.

Sylvester Kleehammer is general chairman and will be assisted by a large committee.

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CELLARS MADE INTO RECREATION ROOMS

The dismal depths of the old fashioned cellar have given place to a new American institution—the recreation room. People are taking advantage of the opportunities for obtaining loans made easy by the Better Housing Program to have their cellar walls and ceilings lined with insulating board. This attractive material is pleasing in appearance and sturdy in character. It costs little to install, and makes a perfect background for the informal furniture and decoration of the recreation room.

CONCRETE FIRST FLOOR

Estimates made by contractors indicate that a concrete first floor increases the total cost of the building only 1½ to 2 per cent.

Concrete floors are fire-resistant and reduce to a minimum the hazard from overheated or defective basement heating plants. They also eliminate sagging, deflection and lateral movements, and consequently minimize plaster cracks on walls and ceilings.

BRIGHTEN UP HALLS

Dark, old halls and vestibules with woodwork finished in dark colors will be remarkably lighter if the woodwork and walls are refinished in light colors.

TEST CEILING PLASTER

To avoid falling ceilings, any part of the plaster that appears to be bulging should be tested for signs of looseness with the hand or a stick. If the plaster is loose, it should be cut out and the ceiling patched.

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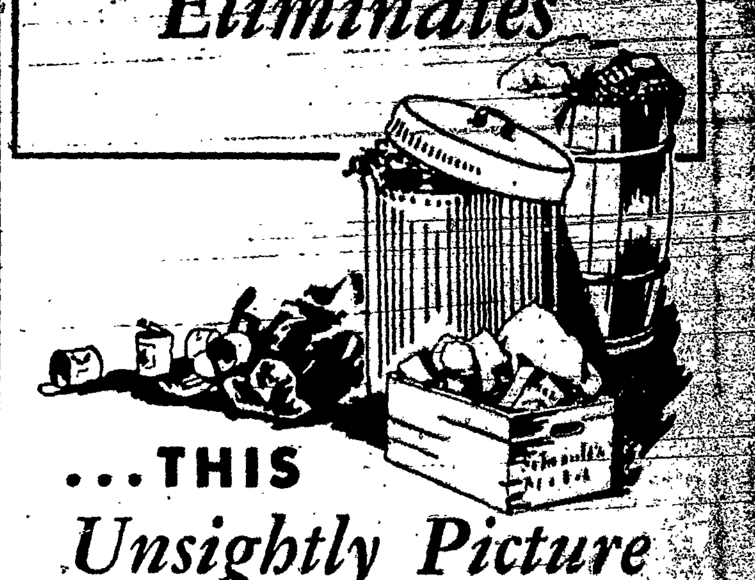
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