

Forum Cards

'Insignificant' Man

By Rev. James M. Gilke, C.S.P.

When telescopes were invented, enabling man to see deeper into the skies than he had seen before...

Perhaps the coryphaeus of these anti-God anti-man propagandists was the curious hybrid of scientist and christian, Ernst Haeckel...

However, let's go back to the argument—if we may so dignify it of those who think that because the universe is big, man is little...

Library Signpost

'A Soul Naturally Christian'

By Rev. Benedict...

If for nothing else, the evening at Aquinas last Sunday must have been amply repaid for me by...

"Lo, I have seen the open hand of God; And in it nothing, nothing, save the rod Of mine affliction, and the eternal hate...

Suddenly a quieting of the tumult of her soul. A light breaks through her grief. Dimly she discerns a divine purpose in her woe and in the tragedy of Troy.

All is well Had He not turned us in His hand, and thrust Our high things low and shook our hills as dust...

There you have it! Four hundred years before Christ taught the world by His crucifixion, a pagan dramatist perceives, as in a glass darkly, the creative function of pain and calamity...

Surely war is hellish. It debauches men. We need not forget that any more than Hecuba. But even in our most ardent conviction of this, it would be ungracious and untruthful to close the eyes against an evident merciful Providence working through the evil necessity thrust upon us.

If there is one barrier to the understanding of this by our folk of today, it is our public education in school, press, radio, and movie.

statedness from the scene to the man. The play's the thing, not the player's the man, not the scenery.

Now, all the world's a stage. In fact all the universe is a stage. The back drop may be the Rockies or the Himalayas, huge, majestic, awe-inspiring...

Or man can dig into the mountains and extract from it for his own purposes whatever wealth it contains. Or he accepts the challenge of the mountains and scales its most hazardous precipices...

So I have never been able to see the force of the materialist's argument that man is insignificant in the universe. Nor was I, even as a student, impressed by what they used to call in those days "the cosmic difficulty."

It is important now when man is in danger of being estimated as much cannon-fodder, and human life as cheap as to be useless, to remember the elementary fact that under God nothing has infinite value but man.

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measure the spiritual insight and grandeur of the dramas of Aeschylus, Sophocles and Euripides. And yet they lived more than four centuries before Christ.

FOR CATHOLIC STAGERS:

The Heart of Mary: A One-Act Drama by George M. Baker

This is one of the best written plays available to religious groups. The story is well conceived, ably constructed, inspiring in theme.

Plot: In the stable cave where Jesus was born, ELIZABETH, mother of John the Baptist, and MIRIAM, a young girl of Bethlehem, are awaiting the return of Mary and Joseph from the Presentation at the Temple.

Production Notes: Biblical drama... 6 characters: 1 M. 5F adults... One set the Cave of the Nativity... One hour playing time... Period costumes... Simple direction and equipment...

FIVE and TEN Years Ago

From Nov. 18, 1932, Edition Citing exceptional progress by the Dutch Catholics, a London correspondent on a visit to Holland reported that the 36 per cent of 7,000,000 Holland inhabitants who were Catholics supported 34 daily newspapers, 27 papers published two or three times a week and 82 weekly publications.

From Nov. 12, 1937, Edition His Holiness, Pope Pius XI, in an Apostolic Letter to U. S. Bishops noted the approach of the Catholic University's Golden Jubilee and urged that "plans be concerted and realized in your respective dioceses to give to the claims of this institution priority over all appeals other than those of established tradition and strict necessity."

Responding to an appeal of His Excellency, Bishop Kearney at the Seventh Annual Diocesan Convention, National Council of Catholic Women, delegates pledged to take an active part and to interest others in the parochial life of the parishes.

The Chapel on the Hill

Inspired by Francis Mass at the French Episcopal Chapel, Bois de Boulogne, Replacment Training Center, Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Poem by Raymond A. Fuchs, Captain.

By Brigadier General Henry C. Evans

In the peace and quiet of the evening, After the day of drill, The soldiers come to Evening Mass In the Chapel on the Hill.

There the shadows of war are lifted, As the wooden benches fill With men seeking strength from Faith and Prayer In the Chapel on the Hill.

The flickering candles beckon, Each kneeling figure is still; Praying for Grace in the midst of strife, In the Chapel on the Hill.

We bow at the Consecration, As in our hearts we thrill To His Presence there on the Altar, In the Chapel on the Hill.

'Quiz' Corner

Is it a sin to have your fortune told?

Your future depends on the will of God or the will of man. This cannot be known through its natural causes and only through God.

Andrew Ruby Kestler was married recently in a North Hollywood Catholic Church, since the new altar erected from Al Juban, was used and he is married in the Catholic Church?

Ruby Kestler married Al Juban before a judge in 1939. Since she is a Catholic this marriage was invalid in the eyes of the Church.

Is it true that the dead know what is happening to those who are left behind?

It is quite evident that the blessed in Heaven know what is happening on earth and is of interest to them. In the Gospel of Saint Luke our Lord says: "There shall be joy in Heaven upon one sinner that doth penance, more than upon ninety-nine just who need not penance."

Is it true that on the last day of our lives will be revealed, even those that have been forgiven?

The Church has not defined whether or not sins forgiven in the Sacrament of Penance will be made known on the Last Day. It is the more common opinion of theologians that all sins will be made known on the Day of Judgment.

EDITORIALS

(Continued from Page 10)

Brooklyn's gain is Rochester's loss. It is hard to say farewell to one who has been so close to clergy and laity in the diocese. The lasting friendships built up over the years will remain even when duty calls Father Mahoney to another field of labor.

THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

The last Sunday in the Church Year brings to us the Gospel prophecy of the second coming of Christ, to judge the world. It reminds us in vivid language that the world will pass away.

Let us look always for the sign of the Son of Man. That sign is the cross of His crucifixion. On the last day, we shall see it shining brightly in the heavens. On the days that succeed with us, we may see it on our churches and schools, on the rosary we carry with us, on the prayerbook we use at Mass.

Keeping the cross before us in life, we shall be prepared to be gathered unto the Son of Man as His cross shines in the sky on the last day.