

Insidious Trusts Against Christian Morals Revealed

Direct attacks on Christian morality would still shock a considerable number of people. But it seems that we have now reached the stage at which the precepts of Christian

morals are being subjected to subtle criticism, sarcasm or veiled opposition in a hundred different ways. Nowhere is this trend better exemplified than in the products of the press, particularly in books and magazines. No doubt it is the opinion of many that probably only a small percentage of readers are aware of the errors being taught in so palatable a form.

It is true that certain ideas to which Catholics cling fast, such as the indissolubility of marriage, have been so generally rejected that few people are startled by reports of anyone advocating divorce. But it is also true that the teachings of naturalism are gaining favor year after year. Were it otherwise the instances of subtle attack upon Christian morality would not be markedly increasing, and such is undeniably the case.

The condition obtains especially with reference to magazines intended for women, of which there are a large number. One of the clearest proofs of the existing situation is the 1943 Annual Digest of "The Women," a monthly publication. A total of 39 "prize-winning" articles originally published in this magazine have been selected and issued in one 128-page number.

CLEVERLY SPOTTED

Many of the articles are quite objectionable, dealing with problems of home making, health, personal care, finances, etc. But here and there throughout the issue can be found evidence of the "new" morality, of how cleverly the spirit of paganism can be introduced even in articles otherwise inoffensive.

Consider the following: In an article, "The Lowdown on Kissings," the author, R. H. Reed, offers this bit of advice to women: "My sweetly (when a man presses you to let him kiss you). Why Tom, it isn't that I object to kissing at all. That's not morally, but for some reason or other, you just don't affect me that way. Temptation does not seem to count for much with the author of this statement.

In another item a woman writer, H. N. Rust, leaves her plea against divorce on her own experience. Having recounted how she had left her husband and returned to the home of her parents, she asserts: "I feel keenly my parents' disappointment in me. Not from a moral point of view, but because I haven't done much with my life." Another woman, speaking on the same subject, relates how all thought of divorce was forgotten by a couple she knew when the depression came. In a third article on the same topic Elizabeth Mather Young states with finality: "If the once happy home has become an intolerable trap, if both have made an honest effort and dismal failure is the only result, it may be best to dissolve the contract. There is no virtue in continuing a relationship that is unhappy or distasteful. Apparently experience and not

God's law is the accepted norm today.

ODD CHURCH-GOERS

A writer who claims to have discovered the worth of church attendance reports that early in her marriage she and her husband had decided to quit going to church because "God was not even the 'watchful old man tallying up our virtues and vices' which had characterized their concept of the Divinity. They finally resumed church-going because they were lonely!

Much is said about children and the home. If Sylvia Jacobs maintains, you are fairly young in years when you marry, and "the doctor advises you not to have children," the matter of adopting "one or two" children should be discussed. How to avoid having children is not mentioned but is clearly implied. Not to have children is a flight modern man has arrogated to himself.

An article by Evelyn Hitt, first published in the magazine "Vogue," is included in the collection. This author speaks sarcastically of "many young women" who "still believe in the backwash of Victorian rules (meaning moral precepts) that a woman's place is in the home." And yet are we not told that it is partly in defense of the home we are fighting the present war? However, is not such a claim a mockery in face of the injunction to women: "You are needed as reformers. Margaret Sanger, once ridiculed, now sees her aims accomplished in almost every State." The latter contention is unfortunately all too true.

Such is a cross-section of opinion culled from a single issue of a rather popular magazine. It is not, regrettably, an exception, but is characteristic of the present trend, characteristic of the kind of ideas inculcated on numberless women and men, not to speak of adolescents. In the face of such evidence it is pertinent to ask how long it will be before serious minded men and women revolt against this sort of thing. Until they do so themselves they are in danger of being engulfed by the immorality so subtly fostered on all sides.—CV Morris.

'Beneath Another Sun' Book Club Choice

NEW YORK. — The Catholic Book Club has chosen "Beneath Another Sun" by Ernest Lothar, as its February book selection. It was announced here. The book deals with the Mumelter family, who for more than three centuries lived in the South Tyrol, earning their living by carving religious statues and how the family fared as the Tyrol came under the domination of Nazis and Fascists.

Many a politician who is bent on running for office is broke as a result.—Wilkes-Barre Record.

TANKS RUMBLE HUSHED BY MASS BELL



This remarkable study of wartime devotion was photographed as hundreds of troops passed in their maneuvers on the desert near Indio, Calif., to hear Mass celebrated by their chaplain. Note the tank crew perched on top their tank at the left. Rough logs were placed on the hot sands for seats.—(N.C.W.C.)

Prelate in Defense Of Living Wage

ATLANTA.—(NC) The Catholic Conference on Industrial Problems, held here under the sponsorship of the Most Rev. Gerald P. O'Hara, Bishop of Savannah-Atlanta, came to a close on a high note of social and economic idealism.

Bishop O'Hara made a stirring defense of labor's right to a living wage "consonant with human dignity," and directed attention again to the Church's "unflinching" stand in support of "the age-old and time-honored institution of private property," asserting that "neither the freedom of man nor his dignity can be adequately protected if private ownership is abolished."

"The laborer," His Excellency said, "is entitled to a living wage. The title rests on the natural law and is as basic as life itself. The living wage, which is the indisputable right of the laborer and is demanded by his status as a spiritual personality, cannot be considered as that which is merely sufficient to maintain his productive efficiency, but must make possible the decent support of a family, the satisfaction of spiritual and cultural needs, proper provision for old age and sickness, and provision against the ordinary insecurity of life."

There is a magic about courtesy that enhances friendly words and kind actions; it wins and cements friendship.

ST. JAMES, Waverly

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OUT

By ELLEN T. FAHEY
WAVERLY.—Financial statement for the year 1942 was distributed Sunday. This statement shows receipts and expenses for the year and a cash balance on hand larger than that of the previous year.

This is a credit to our pastor and people.

RED CROSS SEWING
Wednesday of each week is assigned to the women of our parish for Red Cross sewing. All women who can are urged to give some time during the day at the Red Cross store in the Capitol Theatre block.

'Soldier's Way of the Cross' Attracts Widespread Attention

ST. MENHAD.—(NC) Illustrated with unusual paintings by a refugee Belgian priest who now is residing at the Abbey of St. Menhad and whose artistic conceptions are attracting wide attention, "The Soldier's Way of the Cross" has been published by "The Grail" here for use of American men in the armed forces.

Don Gregory has departed from the customary number of fourteen stations and has added a fifteenth, which shows Christ and the soldiers, both victorious over their enemies and both holding up banners in the "V for Victory" symbol. Special prayers with the imprimatur of the Most Rev. Joseph E. Ritter, Bishop of Indianapolis, have been prepared for this Way of the Cross.

20 Percent Rise In Forced Polish Labor

WASHINGTON.—Twenty per cent more Polish workers were conscripted for forced labor in November than in October, according to a German newspaper published in Poland, the Office of War Information reported. The November total, according to the newspaper, of those sent into forced labor in Germany was 24,064, the OWI stated.

An Aviator Dedicates His Wings

Hail Mary, Mother of God and my Mother, my Queen and my Lady:
Flay my Wings at your feet, and this day dedicate my Service to you. My flying Wings are the distinctive emblem of my branch of Service. Today this emblem takes on a new meaning and a new distinction. As a token of my dedication, and a gesture of fidelity, I place my flying Wings at your feet and become a member of your Knighthood of the Skies. This day I choose you as my Queen of the Flying Corps. Take my Wings and pin them over your Breast. Wear them for me until my term of service is over on earth and I come back home to you. You will be waiting for me with open arms to take me to your heart and kiss me; and while I lay my head on your breast, you will devote me and call me your Hero.
I have won my Wings as my Country's approval of my ability. Let me win them back from you again as your recognition of my manhood and integrity. Let me not tarnish their luster by any passion unworthy of the Immaculate Heart over which you will wear them for me. Let me not dull their glimmering brilliance by any cowardice to Your Son, my Commander-in-Chief.
Hail, Lady of my heart! I'll see you "upstairs" in the Sun, standing on the Moon and surrounded by stars!
Hail, Mary!
Father Henry, C.F.

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