Religious Bulletin. Supplement. March 17, 1924.

The editor of the <u>Religious Bulletin</u> craves the indulgence of his readers for what he has to say in this number, and prays God that no evil may come to any of the souls committed to his care from the mention of the title of a modern nasty book.

"The Plastic Age" is still in somewhat open circulation among the students of the University. The philosophy of this book was discussed in a recent issue of the Bulletin, the theme of which was "through diaisllusionment to pessimism." The point was clear enough; the condemnation of the book was explicit; the evil it is doing was laid open -- and still the book circulates.

The book was read by the Prefect of Religion at the request of a person who was in doubt about its morality. He condemned the book as immoral, and sought the advice of five older and more experienced priests who pronounced the same judgment.

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Whoever recommends such a book or aids in any way in its circulation is guilty of the sins of scandal, and participates in all the sins of bad thought, imaginations, desires, words or actions that may be committed by those who read it as a direct of indirect result of such suggestion. The book is what may be called a "common occasion of sin," and to retain it in ones possession is sinful. The evilthat may come from such propaganda dan be calculated only by the recording angel and will come to light only at the Last Judgment.

If you have read the book and can see nothing wrong with it, you should send it home to your mother and ask her what she left out of your education.

The book is offensive to Christian minds on the following counts:

- 1. It brazenly suggest and describes lewd scenes;
- 2. It leaves the impression that there is no objective
- morality, no God to tell us what is right and wrong;
- 3. It makes ahero of a milk-sop who goes scot-free
- after complete mental debauchery;
- 4. The "lige-preserver" is a poor stick of a Catholic who assuredly learned nothing of Catholic principles from his mother, who smokes ciggrettes and runs around with the flappers;
- 5. It insinuates that all college men are "rotters", since there is not a decent character in the book.

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The English professor's talk on mediocrity (for which some students say they read the bock) is pale and insipid to mawkishness when compared with what Archbishop Ireland and Bishop Spalding have to say on the same subject. --Be square with your poor soul and burn the book if it comes near you.

> John F. O'Hara, C.S.C., Prefect of Religion.