

Religious Bulletin.

June 4, 1924.

Accidents?

(With Apologies to the New York Safety Department.)

There are no accidents in God's plan. We call them accidents because we don't expect them -- in spite of all the tables of expectations.

Railroad Accidents.

Five a day is the average number of grade crossing for the past five years; this means that every four hours and forty-eight minutes someone tries to beat the game and gets caught. And with this figure before them, 1818 more people got caught each year taking a chance.

*

Every time we commit a mortal sin we take a chance that is infinitely more foolish. If the flivver-pilot gets caught he is simply killed; if we get caught "we've got to go to hell yet."

Day-Light Stuff.

About 70% of crossing accidents occur in daylight, 63% at crossings where the views is entirely open and at places with which the driver is entirely familiar.

*

One hundred per cent of our moral accidents occur in moral daylight; we cannot commit a mortal sin without full knowledge and full consent.

Some Punch!

The average train weighs about 2,000,000 pounds. At sixty miles an hour such a weight would strike a blow of about 245,000,000 foot-pounds. (Check, Engineers.) They'll have to make them heavier than that to knock sense into some people.

"Up to the Driver."

(Make your Own Application to the Sinner.)

"The grade crossing is simply a dangerous strip, perhaps 100 to 200 feet wide, drawn across the path of the motor car. It is protected by warning signs of many kinds and great prominence. The location is not obscure. It is not hidden danger, but open and threatening danger, made prominent by many warnings. No driver of an automobile ought to be so absolutely dumb as not to know and fully realize the danger of attempting to get across a crossing in advance of a train that is rapidly nearing the spot. No occupant of an automobile ought to be wholly insensible of the approach to a crossing, and the driver is asleep or drunk who fails to take measures to stop a car that is approaching a crossing at high speed. The open season is at hand."

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