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Protecting The Child's Mind From The Idea Of God.

Moloch, god of the Ammonites, loved children. He loved them so much that he ate them. His brazen belly was a rearing furnace on his feast-day; into its depths pagan mothers thrust their offspring as a token of their devotion to Moloch. Pagan historians of the time tell us that on occasions more babies were offered than Moloch could stomach, and that tearful mothers had to be turned away with the advice that they be first in line next year. And this happened even in Carthage, the proud capital of a magnificent "civilization" - or whatever you would call the acme of materialism.

The scorching the ancient pagan mothers gave their children was a bit crude - it was over in such a hurry, and there wasn't even a chance that the little ones would go to hell to scorch for all eternity. Neo-pagan mothers are smarter - the scorching they give their little darlings is intended to last through this world and the next. The latest news of it comes from a publisher's blurb in the New York World-Telegram for October 9, 1931.

The story is done by the Woman's Page Editor, who gives free publicity to a nursery book - not good old honest jingles, but modern "preparation for life." The yarn is that previous to publication the book was submitted to women "interested in education" (that much-abused word again), and that it was "found that a large group emphatically objected to the idea that the modern little boy or girl should be taught to pray," so the pretty little picture of Peggy and Peter saying their prayers was eliminated.

Note the dollar sign: "The protesting group included Miss Marian Cutter, of the Children's Book Shop, who felt that sales of the book would be decreased by inclusion of the devotional picture" - and don't miss the aura of science (for if Columbia says it's so, it's so): "... and by Mrs. Catherine Haltby Blaisdell, wife of Professor T. C. Blaisdell, of the economics department of Columbia University, representing the point of view of the very modern mother who turns to the psychologist for guidance in bringing up her child."

But listen to Mrs. B.: "If such a picture were put into the hands of my children I should be in for a bad half hour trying to explain what prayers were and why they do not form a part of their own routine. I would not bar the book from the house to save myself this trouble, but I think it is vastly improved by the omission of such a picture, for a great many children today are brought up without ever hearing of God or religion. Mine are among them.

"To introduce a small child to the idea of an Omnipotent Father may easily rob him of his self-dependence. He may form the habit of leaning on some person or power instead of growing up in the belief that he alone must meet and solve his problems as they arise." (But it isn't independence if the child still leans on father and mother. Why not shoot the father and mix arsenic with the mother's gin?) But she goes on: "If the religious idea has been planted in his mind in the early years he will pass through a period of great unhappiness when the doubts begin to intrude on his childhood belief."

Steel yourself for the sob-stuff ending. The publisher says: "It is a new kind of censorship to me; my own children kneel down and say 'Gentle Jesus, meek and mild,' every night before going to bed." Well may they pray, for their daddy publishes books which tell people not to have children, and he will some day have to answer for that before this same Gentle Jesus who will come to judge those who scandalize his little ones!

PRAYERS: Joe Caton asks prayers for his grandmother, who is suffering from an affliction of the eyes. Harry Mehre, '22, head coach at the University of Georgia, lost his father yesterday. ~~Four~~ special intentions.