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"The Thinker" Talks In His Sleep.

Every bogus mental activity bears a tag by which it may be known. When, for instance, a professor of fake science wants to drive home to his class some departure from the laws of common sense, he begins by saying, "Of course, we scientists...." When you hear that, walk out. The man's usefulness is over. And when you see a magazine calling itself "The Thinker," save your two bits. Real thought sells on its own merits; it doesn't have to resort to the low trick of telling you that you are not one of the herd.

Not everyone follows this criterion of criticism, however; The Scholastic missed it last week and gave free publicity to a circulation dodge for "The Thinker," an essay contest for college students. A professor with a nose for fraud looked up the little fake and brought us a copy. We wasted ten precious minutes on it, and look at what we found (in an article by an ex-priest who never had a sense of humor):

"The Catholic Church secures a good press when a girl about to enter a nunnery flies by plane to her novitiate, or when the Notre Dame football team, before it tears at the throats of the Cadets, kneels around its coach to say three Hail Marys."

Do you want to engage in "The Thinker's" essay contest? Probably not - unless your sense of humor is overly developed.

We should let it rest here and announce that there will be in the church tomorrow,

Mass For The Team At 6:25;  
Poor Souls Devotions For The Team after Dinner;

but another passage intrigues us. In a book review the thinker thinks it awful that nothing is done to keep the 12,000,000 morons in this country from propagating their kind. But what would "The Thinker" do for circulation if there were no more morons?

Where Are Your Manners?

"Davenport, Iowa - Dear Father: I took a party of non-Catholics to the Pitt Game. They had never been to Notre Dame and all the way there I talked of the fine spiritual background of the boys. My friends were properly impressed by what they saw. Imagine my humiliation (and silence on the return trip) brought about by the repeated booing of the officials by the Notre Dame rooting section. Because I am an ardent Notre Dame admirer I want you to know how I feel. Much of my enthusiasm will now be greeted with a lifted eyebrow. -- J.J.W."

You're Half-Right, Brother.

"Dear Father: Doesn't it seem strange that students at a Catholic University should be so ignorant of such simple customs as the proper time to stand and kneel at High Mass?"

It's not ignorance so much as sheepishness - but it's terrible. Last Sunday the congregation didn't even rise at the Gloria. We don't want to appoint a beadle for the church services. Maybe we won't have to if you will occupy the front pew and observe the proper rubrics yourself. They will all follow you.

NOTE: The 9:00 Mass Sunday will be a Low Mass; the choir will be absent, broadcasting.  
PRAYERS: Richard Pfefferle underwent an operation for appendicitis last night; Joseph Argus went home with a suspected attack. A sister of Fr. Coyle, C.S.C., died recently. A relative of Howard DeVault is quite ill. Five special intentions.