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The Great Twaddlebury.

"This question of prayer quite exasperates me," says the great Philbert Twaddlebury in his initial interview.

"Tennyson's idea that more things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of," he runs on, as he squelches another bon bon, "and the doctrine of the Catholic Church regarding the infallibility and efficacy of prayer--these are to me most disturbing.

"Let us take my own experience in the last examinations. I tried most desperately, most desperately I say, to make the entire nine days of the Novena. And I missed only four of the nine days.

"You will have to admit," he persisted, as he shifted pillows in his easy chair, "that that was quite remarkable for me, considering my extraordinary habits and background."

"What's the answer? Oh, someone, anyone, what's the answer" cried Stooze in distress. "It must be that the world never dreamed even of the Great Twaddlebury passing an examination. Unthinkable as it is, this supposition leaves ground for poor Tennyson to stand on.

"But listen Philbert," proceeds Stooze. "What did you do to get yourself ready the four-and-a-half months before exams?

"You read a lot of fluky, exotic literature so that you could quote authors and books that none of the rest of us would lay hands on. That was your only chance to seem superior!

"Now that you haven't enough gumption to go to Communion daily, you try to scoop up an intellectual difficulty to save your self-respect.

"Your failure in the examinations should prove to you that you're nothing but an intellectual poser, that you're spineless as an eel.

"But your failure really only convinces you that God has slighted you, or that there's no strength in prayer. No suggestion, of course, in your reasoning that you lack fairness and generosity with God.

"A great and sensible general once said: 'Trust in God but keep your powder dry'.

"And over on one of the entrances to Dillon Hall you will find this Latin quotation, Facienti quod in se est, Deus non denegat gratiam.

"It boils down to this, God helps those who help themselves.

"Think that over, commonplace as it may seem to you, when you're building yourself up intellectually and morally for the final exams on a steady diet of Esquire.

"Filthy drawing, sexy writing for fresh young minds and hearts--this stuff is supported, endowed, by sophisticated, pretentious goofs like yourself.

"And you have the gall to complain of the inefficacy of praying!"

PRAYERS: Deceased, Mother Agnes, O.S.W. of the College of New Rochelle; godmother of Charles Sweeney (Carroll). Ill, sister of John M. Crimmins '33; grandmother and friend of Ed Kirby (Serin); two friends of students. Six special intentions.