

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
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This Open-mindedness.

The Bulletin of today is more or less directed to that particular editorial writer on "The Tech" (student paper of M.I.T.) who, evidently, has original notions about the functions of a university.

He seems to imply in the editorial referred to yesterday that if a university hasn't an open mind on everything (chiefly, we suspect, on Communism), it just isn't a university. Now that point of view raises many strange questions.

Does a medical school, according to the "open-mind" system of education, teach students to disregard all that has been previously learned about typhoid fever--about its transmission, its symptoms, its treatment?

Has medical science, after these many years, anything to say for sure on typhoid fever and other diseases? If it has, and if medical students spend much of their time learning what medical science has to say, just how does the student preserve his open mind regarding what is taught him for certain?

Take engineering, which you teach so well there at Tech. Suppose you yourself work out a problem and suppose--pardon if you've never had the experience--the professor says you're absolutely wrong. Would you fight him on the ground that he ruins your open mind?

Would you scrap the multiplication table and all the teachings of the science of mathematics and start off building bridges purely on your open mind?

Facts, after all, seem in certain cases to close the open mind--providing the open mind isn't altogether blank.

There is place for the open mind, sure enough, in fields of speculation. Nobody knows all that's going on on Mars. Until we have the facts it is scholarly to preserve an open mind.

Some people ought to have an open mind (and haven't) regarding the Catholic Church, which they think they know all about (and don't).

Not long ago a young college graduate apoplectically denounced the Catholic Church for its "unscientific" attitude toward evolution, for its "narrow" insistence upon the existence of a personal God, for teaching that Christ is divine.

Asked to state precisely the Catholic attitude toward evolution and the young man failed miserably.

Asked for one of the arguments usually advanced by Catholics to prove the existence of a personal God and the young man was tongue-tied.

Asked if he knew accurately how Catholics reason to Christ's divinity, and the young man abruptly left the joust.

There is place, even in a real university, for the open mind and for the closed mind--providing the mind is closed by facts.

Here at Notre Dame our minds are decided, closed in a certain sense if you like, by the errors and evils of Communism. Facts produced by Communism itself have done the closing. If you know any important point regarding Communism upon which we are ill informed, you might take time out to tell us about it.

Editor: (deceased) little friend of Ed Huff (St. Ed's); Mrs. Morrissey, friend of Pat Fisher (Sor.); uncle of Dick and Don O'Melia (Morr.). Ill, entire family and friends of Ed Huff (St. Ed's); mother of Eddie McCrann (old student, '30-'33).