

Religious Bulletin.  
March 6, 1923.

The Fortune Teller.

"Is-----on the Index?"

Why do you ask? The book you mention is too new to come to the attention of the Congregation of the Index, which never bothers anyway to examine books or magazines which are openly immoral. It condemns them all by a general decree.

The publishers of the books you mention are advertising it as forbidden goods. That should settle the matter for you.

If you fool with danger you may very easily lose your soul. It is the first step that counts. Things always go from bad to worse. If you have already taken a wrong step in this direction, retrace it by voluntary penance, and it may not be too late to correct yourself. Remember that you are not kidding anyone but yourself if you indulge in bad reading. Your time for reading is short enough. Devote it to good reading.

St. Thomas.

The philosophers honor their patron saint tomorrow. He will be honored more by your Mass and Holy Communion than by your appetite for dinner. Our Lord asked what he desired for having written so beautifully of him. He replied: "Only Thyself, My Lord; Only Thyself."

Prayers.

Charles O'Connell's sister died Sunday.  
Father Farley's mother is very sick.  
Three students ask prayers for sick relatives and one for a special intention.

St. Francis de Sales on Prohibited Games.

"The games of dice, cards, and the like, in which the gain depends principally on hazard, are not only dangerous recreations, as dancing, but are, of their own nature, bad and reprehensible; hence they have been forbidden by the laws, as well ecclesiastical as civil.

"You will say perhaps, what great harm can there be in them? The evil consists in this, that the gain is not acquired at these games according to reason, but chance, which often falls upon him whose ability or industry deserves nothing; and such a proceeding is repugnant to reason. But you will say, it is according to the agreement of the parties. That serves indeed to show that the winner does no wrong to the loser, but it justifies neither the agreement nor the game for the game, for the gain, which ought to be the recompense of industry, is made the reward of chance, which deserves no reward whatever, since it depends not at all upon us.

"Besides, although these games bear the name of recreations, yet they are by no means recreations, but tiresome occupations, for is it not tiresome to keep the mind incessantly occupied by an unremitted attention, and provoked by perpetual apprehensions and solitudes?

"Can there be any attention more painful, gloomy, or melancholy, than that of gamsters? You must neither speak, laugh nor cough, whilst they are at play for fear of giving offense." Introduction to a devout Life.

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Rev. John F. O'Hara, C.S.C.,