

Demasiado Soft.

A wise father left his son at Notre Dame a few years ago with the following instructions: "Hay que tratarle duro. Es demasiado soft." Father was right. The boy was not bad, but his muscles were flabby and his brain was flabby. He was "too much soft."

The Softies.

1. You are soft if you can't take punishment -- mental, spiritual or physical.
2. You are soft if you always get your own way about everything. You may think it is determination: it isn't; it's just plain bullheadedness.
3. You are soft if you can't get up in the morning; you are soft if you can't go to bed at night; you are soft if you cannot overcome distractions to study; you are soft if it breaks your heart to miss a dance or a movie; you are soft if you can't keep up daily Communion.

The Danger of Softness.

Softness has only two dangers of any consequence:

1. You turn out to be a dud;
2. You go to hell.

How Come?

Very few people commit mortal sin through malice, especially if they have any intelligence. But the malice is there implicitly when through cowardice (another name for human respect) or laziness or uncontrolled passion they violate the Law of God. From the number of softies who receive the last Sacrament it would appear that God doesn't hold them entirely responsible.

Therapeutics.

You can't boil a bad egg hard or soft, but even a soft-shelled egg can be boiled hard if you take your time. Apply heat gradually but steadily. Don't quit until the desired consistency is reached.

The Only Real Hard-Boiled Eggs.

The martyrs were the only real hard-boiled people. They didn't care what anyone thought, or said, or DID. But they didn't become martyrs over-night. Resistance comes through practice. The football players or the track man who can't take punishment won't make the varsity. And he can't take the cruel punishment of competition unless he gets in lots of practice through mortification.

Envoi.

Go on being soft if you want to. It's your own funeral.

Prayers.

Prayers are requested for the three special intentions.