

RELIGIOUS BULLETIN.
March 19, 1925.

Cases from the Survey.

One distinct advantage of the Religious Survey is that it gives the student an opportunity to state his case and receive the advice he needs on it. As the number of returns increases it will be impossible to handle all the false notions that come in; students especially desiring an answer on the Bulletin should ask for it. The following cases are chosen for discussion today because they apply to many more than the ones who stated them.

I.

"I have found out that frequent Communion deprives one gradually of the reverence surely due to the Sacrament, causing not exactly disrespect but a loss of the real feeling for the Sacrament. This is a FACT."

It is nothing of the kind, although it is a very common notion. The feeling you speak of is probably the emotion which is quite pronounced as a rule in Holy Communion when received at rare intervals, and is frequently absent in daily Communion. That emotion is so far from being essential that a Communion without it, even with distaste for everything religious, may be far more meritorious than a very fervent "emotional" reception. If Holy Communion is producing its proper effects on the intellect and the will, if it makes you avoid sin more carefully and want to know God better, it is doing what Christ established it to do.

Your real trouble is stated in your answers to questions 25 and 35. Your knowledge of God comes through reading and meditation very largely, and you have starved your soul on the matter of reading. Your heart cannot keep up a very lively pace of devotion if your mind's knowledge of God has not advanced beyond the sixth grade. And why should you neglect the Sacraments for eleven weeks because of a tiny difficulty in your mind when you could have solved it in a minute with the aid of a priest? The Prefect of Religion answers a good many questions in the course of the day, and no question more frequently---in the case of freshmen---than the one you propose. And now if you will be good enough to come over to room 141 Sorin you will get some further and more personal advice, and enough good literature to last you a while. Give your soul a chance.

II.

"I have never considered an ideal Notre Dame man. I don't want to be disillusioned."

That's a nice thing for a senior to say, a fighting Irisher. It's quite evident that you don't mean what you say, for you have several ideals expressed on the questionnaire. But you do express a dangerous tendency. Every life worth living is a vigorous fight---for ideals. If you expect to rise above mediocrity in life you'll have to revise your point of view. Pay no attention to disappointments; brush them off like flies. If you want some particulars on the gospel of optimism, come in for a talk.

III.

"I do not seek spiritual advice outside of confession because I don't know of any priest who takes enough interest in me to give me any."

Harsh and cruel. Do you want to make a bet on it? The Prefect of Religion will say a Mass for you if he can't talk to you about yourself and your past for five minutes without ever repeating himself. All you have to do is come in and sit in the big chair and announce that you have come to claim the bet. He does not know who you are, and it is possible that he does not know your name; but ten to one he knows a lot about you. You say that you are frank and cranky; if your characterization of yourself is correct you will be over.

Be good enough to ask the off-campus student who sits next to you in class whether he has filled out his questionnaire. Off-campus returns last year were only 50.

Be good enough to ask prayers for his brother-in-law who is very sick.