

RELIGIOUS BULLETIN.

April 24, 1925

Building a Solid Character.

The primary purpose of Notre Dame is to build character. Character has been defined as life dominated by principles. A good character is dominated by right principles; a strong character is so exercised as action from principles that it resists the sway of impulse consistently. A weak character is dominated by environment; a strong character dominated environment. A solid character is sound through out: it has no weak spots and no bad spots.

The Bulletin has during the past four days pointed out the enemies of perseverance and has suggested a general line of spiritual development that will prevent collapse. It will now consider the natural enemies in detail, and will suggest positive remedies for weakness of character.

1. Comfort.

The ability to withstand a big crisis is built up by withstanding little crises. The deadening effect of comfort is well known to athletic coaches, who make it a point to introduce into the environment of their charges a regular and reasonable amount of discomfort. No coach has any use for a man who can't stand punishment; and discomfort is the punishment of pain and effort.

Yesterday's N.G.N. paid high tribute to the Irish Cop. It noted that the seven policemen shot Monday were Sullivan, Fitzgerald, Cunningham, Kennelly, another Fitzgerald, Glavin and Ryan; that the men who captured the notorious Chapman were Ryan, Atkin, Brown, Barker, Naughton and Murphy; and that Farlong, Curran, Finn, Doherty, Alcock and Egan faced withering gunfire in the capture of Podolski. It wasn't comfort that produced such stock in the Old Country; but comfort has taken the fight out of many an Irishman right here at Notre Dame.

The United States Army is not noted for catering to the comfort of its men; and the first step in the training of the recruit is a barbarous initiation in discomfort, which is intended to work the softness out of his system. Catholic college men have a divine call to be the leaders in God's Army; and His Army is full of traitors.

The following positive suggestions will help you to build moral fibre:

1. Arise early and promptly. Make your bed a place for physical and mental recuperation, not for moral decomposition.
2. In class, sit on the end of your sine, don't hang from your neck.
3. Massage your spine with cold water every morning.
4. In church, kneel and stand as if you believed in the Real Presence.
5. Boycott the street car company.
6. Do hard things because they are hard.

Mental discomfort is harder to bear than physical discomfort. The following letter is a sample of grining under mental discomfort:

"Dear Father: In your Wednesday bulletin you have expressed a willingness to accept religious surveys filled in by girls and containing good ideas--'If such a thing were possible.' Now, Father, you have spent considerable time knocking the engineers and I fail to see wherein God, Country or Notre Dame has profited thereby. You put forth your best razzing against Ba in Hall but they have a new porch and are doing nicely. You made several feeble attempts to belittle the east before you were obliged to change the subject--your paltry arguments have been overcome by facts and now as the latest victim of your poison pen we have: 'The Ladies'."

The rest of the letter is not up to the literary standard of the introduction, so you will have to be content with the sample. It is a clear illustration of a mad lover's

RELIGIOUS BULLETIN.

April 24, 1925 (Con't)

resistance to mental discomfort.

John F. O'Eara, C.S.C.,
Prefect of Religion.