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Here's Where We Get Busy.

Spike McAdams didn't return this fall. The following letter tells why:

"Dear Father: I will try to tell you why I failed to return to school this fall. It was unintentional and could not be avoided. I came down with pneumonia the day after I arrived home from the Orient, and only St. Therese, the Little Flower, pulled me out of it. I am certain of that because I was almost "supposed" to kick the bucket. I have a kidney that has bothered me for two years, and an attack with that after I got out of the hospital almost finished, but I came out of it and have had a normal temperature for five days. They were going to take the kidney out and be done with it, but I put up a kick because if one kidney was out and anything happened to the other I would be all caught up. The pus has almost drained out now, and today I sat up for the first time, but just for a little while.

"I am still flat on my back, which accounts for the penmanship. It looks as though I am going to get out of it without an operation and my kidney will be saved. If it were taken out I would have to be careful, and athletics would be a thing of the past. I went to Communion every day I was in the hospital, sick or not. Since I have been here I have had one of the priests from the parish come over to administer Holy Communion. My folks are making a Novena to the Little Flower, going every Tuesday night to St. Clara's Church. My sister has all the nuns at St. Mary's of the Woods praying for me, so I guess I will get through.

"I believe in doctors, but I trust in God to get me through, and if He ever failed me I would not be pushing this pen right now. Father, will you send up by Hilliard, McPartlin, Essroger or Dorgan (when they come in), a couple of the purple prayer books and a few others that you might see fit to send. I will be back in February.  
-- Frank McAdams."

Spike is the sort of lad that makes a Notre Dame priest believe in Notre Dame education. In spite of his cheerful references to croaking, he has, with characteristic modesty, understated his case. He had double pneumonia and an acute attack of kidney trouble at one and the same time. And every time he thrilled the fight fans last year with his clever boxing, he was suffering; after every fight he was laid up with a pain in his back. And he worked his way to the Orient and back this summer in spite of this handicap.

Spike makes up for two hundred of his classmates who are flat on their backs every morning during the Mission, afflicted with Sophomoritis, which is a disease of the soul.

Here's where we get busy with our prayers to put Spike back on his feet for February. Put his name in with the football Novena. He has the spirit that has made Notre Dame football, even if he hasn't the size.

The Novena for the Team.

This is a test of your school spirit. It begins tomorrow morning. Offer Holy Communion each day and say a prayer in honor of the Guardian Angels.

More Prayers.

Father Patrick Hagerty's father died yesterday. James Dolan, an alumnus, asks prayers for his mother, who died recently, and Frank Ahearn for an aunt, also recently deceased. Three special intentions are recommended. Steve Ronay's mother is dangerously ill. John Daily has been called home by the death of a relative.