
Student Suicide.

There ~~is~~ some sane observation on student life in the following editorial, published by The Catholic Observer, of Pittsburgh, las Saturday;

"A Chicago youth recently committed suicide after having read the philosophers from Plato to Heine. He came to the conclusion that there was no use in prolonging the agony of existence. His third attempt in taking his life was successful.

"Few men who spend all their days with books have the time and industry to read all the philosophers from Plato to Heine. The newspaper article, which by the way is the authority for classing Heine as a philosopher, has very probably exaggerated his philosophical erudition, but it may be supposed that the young man was wise beyond his years. He had eaten of the tree of knowledge and the fruit had the traditional bitterness. Most people die without ever hearing of Plato, and there are few youths who have even a hazy idea of what the word, philosophy, signifies.

"The young man was probably leading a purely intellectual life, than which there is no existence more unhappy. A man who forgets that he has a physical side to his nature and leads only a mental existence may quickly develop a fear of living. He is out of the stream of life. It would have been much better for the boy whose case we are reviewing if he would have become interested in books only when threatened with physical punishment.

"Our young philosopher was not leading a balanced existence. He must certainly have ignored the spiritual side of his nature; otherwise in his tribulation the book of Job might have comforted him as it has many another. He allowed only one side of his nature to develop. Great minds of all time have wrestled with the problem of whence we are and why, and reason is not clearing up the situation one bit. All the philosophers present different solutions to the riddle of this painful world. If they were in agreement there would be only one school of philosophers. This youthful philosopher thought the lot of mankind so miserable that he saw no reason for continuing existence. A little love for his fellow men would have made him see the good to be accomplished by those who dedicate themselves to the suffering humanity.

"The youthful prodigy might have been saved from his sad plight if he had had a sense of humor. If the grace to laugh in tragic moments were his, he might have averted a great tragedy. A man whose system is in good condition can easily find much to laugh at in the pages of the sour Schopenhauer. His essay on Suicide can easily furnish a healthy, well-balanced man with a little laugh. The man who has some pleasure in life is unwilling to leave life.

"The young man might have engaged in athletics, a far more normal occupation for the growing animal than philosophy. If he had had a desire to be a better bowler or a better horseshoe player than his fellows, he might have crossed this dangerous period of his life. He might have escaped the clutches of philosophy, surely no playmate for children, even though they be precocious. A few bruises at football might have been very disconcerting at the time, but they would have helped to keep him normal. Very probably he saw the futility of such maneuvers. He saw before his time the vanity of all things under the sun and was inconsolable at the discovery."

Coach Rockne.

We are assured that Coach Rockne will be on the sidelines at practice today, in a wheel chair. Please continue your prayers for his complete recovery.

PRAYERS: A man who is ill; three special intentions, a conversion.