

University of Notre Dame  
Religious Bulletin  
September 24, 1931

Animal Trainers? Heck! They're Oilers and Wipers.

Tuesday the Bulletin ventured a question: Are the professors of the rejuvenated University of Chicago educators or merely animal trainers. Philip Kinsley answered the question and set us down hard in Tuesday's Tribune. We had aimed too high. We had concluded too quickly that the U. of C. students are animals; now we find that they are only machines. Ergo, their professors are not animal trainers; they are merely oilers and wipers.

We suspected as much, of course, from the beginning. But we gave credit to the sop thrown to Prof. Compton's theory of the free will of the electron; but the present review of the syllabus tells us plainly that the University of Chicago has allied itself with the "majority" of biologists, who "today are convinced that there is no real gap or any new force involved in the transition from non-living to living."

The matter grows clearer as we read on: "Life is only a label - a name for a way of reacting..... Individuals exhibit certain mental activities such as remembering, perceiving, reasoning and 'feeling.' The totality of these mental activities is referred to as 'the mind.' But such a collective term has no independent existence..... Man is not a mind plus body, but mind body. He is a machine that thinks."

In other words, there is no psyche, no mind..... but there is still psychology. There is no bios, or life, ..... but there is still biology. There are no motives-- only external physical and chemical stimuli.... but the professors will still dwell on motivation. There is nothing left but engineering..... but they still advertise courses in anthropology.

There is more, much more, but why bother? When we understand the principles, the conclusions are not hard to reach. Wisconsin has hardly given its experiment decent burial, and we have a new corpse on our hands. Caveant adolescentuli.

The Novena To The Little Flower.

A Novena is a nine-days prayer. When we make a Novena at Notre Dame we generally offer nine Holy Communions and say the same prayer daily for the nine days. The public prayers of the Novena to the Little Flower will be recited at 5:00 and 6:30 every evening in the Sorin Hall chapel, beginning today, and ending a week from tomorrow, the day preceding the feast. The pamphlet rack in Sorin Hall has a new supply of booklets for this Novena.

The Second Mission.

Father Flood will conduct the Mission for upperclassmen, which will begin next Sunday night. All upperclassmen, except the students in St. Edward's Hall, are required to attend this Mission.... and the two hundred or so freshmen who have skived the exercises of this week would do well to follow their example if they expect to get an education at Notre Dame. There is always a day of reckoning.

Prayers.

Two deceased friends of Jos. Hayes, of St. Edward's Hall, one of them his pastor. A great friend of Notre Dame, Fr. Lawrence Hackett, of Ottawa, Illinois, died Tuesday. A brother of Andrew Shiebler was injured in an auto accident a few days ago. Chas. Bragg, of Brownson Hall, asks prayers for his brother and sister, who are stricken with infantile paralysis. Three students ask prayers for friends who are ill, and one for a deceased friend. Jas. McGee, a student last year, is ill in a sanitarium and will appreciate your prayers. Five special intentions.