
Would You Care To Read This Book?

My Sins Of Omission, by Jacques Debout, is a new kind of spiritual book. The author is a French Academician, one of that group of brilliant writers who have lately become so intensely Catholic. His book is so stimulating that you should read it, and to whet your taste for it the Bulletin publishes the following random excerpts:

"I accuse myself of being ignorant, wilfully ignorant, of the prayers said at Mass, satisfied merely to attend - instead of taking part - telling my beads, turning the leaves of a commonplace prayer-book, or humming still more commonplace hymns - of being satisfied even to stand there like a sentry, and of having thought that I was worshipping God by sitting like and orderly through twenty minutes every Sunday at the latest and shortest Mass, of having prayed at Mass and of having had Masses said only with a view to my personal needs, forgetting that that Commemoration of Calvary has above all an official and universal character, of having perverted to the sole form of a petition such of the words of worship, contrition and thanksgiving as I could remember, thinking, for example, that the primary object of a certain number of Hail Marys was not so much to do honor to the Blessed Virgin as to secure success in some examination." - Page 12.

"I accuse myself of having considered All Souls' Day rather as 'the New Year day of the dead,' of having paid them merely a ceremonial visit and left my card. I accuse myself of thinking that I had discharged all my obligations to the dead in the war by having been moved at the unveiling of their monument as I listened to an operatic selection and the speech delivered by the Deputy Lieutenant." - Pages 14, 15.

"Our friends are, as a matter of fact, people of excellent standing, and we do not tolerate anybody not in Society. So we are frequent callers on Mr and Mrs M., a divorced couple, but the wife is a well-known singer and the husband is in the Civil Service.....

"My wife is always afraid of being behind fashion and I behind opinion. I think that, being so, we serve our religion very effectively, although indirectly, by making people overlook the fact that we have any.

"Is it not a refreshing thought to be able to say to oneself: 'Apart from twenty minutes a week we are just like other folk?'

"And it is impossible not to feel a little pride on hearing an ex-collector of taxes say with a sigh: 'Ah! if only all Catholics were as broad-minded as you are!'" - Pp. 44-45.

"I had a friend, a charming, shy man. If he had had the courage to ask me for the five or six pounds which I kept neglecting to return to him, he might have taken the little holiday and enjoyed the mouthful of air his poor lungs craved." - Page 50.

There are ninety pages of these exquisite thrusts in this charming little volume. If you feel that your soul can stand up under their lash, ask the Prefect of Religion for a copy.

"It Is Time To Try Religion."

Bishop Helli's masterful declaration on the evils of the day, which evoked wide comment when it was issued a month ago, has been issued as a pamphlet. The rack has a good supply. Get the points of this statement well in mind: they will enable you to handle certain situations which will arise.

PRAISERS: Aaron Weinbolt's father has just undergone an operation for appendicitis. Frank Hockreiter's mother is in danger of an operation. Hugh Farrell's brother died this summer. Five special intentions.