

Confessions 6:15-7:00
Basement chapel and
Dillon Hall

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
February 17, 1932.

Confessions during
and after services
7:00 and 7:45

A Physician Speaks His Mind On Birth Control.

From The Ave Maria of February 6 we take the following important comment:

The editor of the London Catholic Times received a severe shock recently when in perusing a Sunday newspaper which had always been a vehicle of paganism and falsehood, he happened upon an article dealing with the causes of unhappiness among married women, and the reasons why so many wives seek the divorce courts. It seems that this newspaper had sent its representative to a rather prominent physician in London to obtain his views on the declining birth rate, and the doctor's statements were so startling and sensational, to the mind of the editor, that space was given to them in spite of the fact that they were not in line with the general policy of the paper.

This doctor is of the opinion that more marriages are being broken up today because of nerve-racked wives than for any other single reason. The nerve-racking is not due to the stupidity and ignorance of ministers of religion, he assures us, but to the empty cradles so dramatically evidenced by the Register-General's figures. Childlessness, thwarted maternal instincts, and the shelving of maternal duties by mothers, he says, are producing a host of nervous wrecks, neurasthenics, and mentally-unbalanced women who are not suitable companions for any kind of normal man.

It might be well for married couples to ponder over this physician's words; and those who believe that they are making married life easy and even pleasant by practicing birth control may find to their sorrow that they are wrecking their matrimonial careers by their failure to bear the ordinary natural burdens of the married state that are connected with the procreation and the rearing of children.

It is well for humanity that the radicals are discovering for themselves what Catholic physicians have been trying all along to tell them - that nature takes a toll for the violation of her laws. Physicians in this country have been troubled over the fact that the proportion of nervous diseases among women has increased almost three-fold in a generation. If they will investigate further they will find what this English physician has found among married women, and they will make the further discovery that unmarried women are suffering as well as a result of the outraged modesty which modern so-called courtship sanctions. Unmarried men should remember that their own indiscretions in courtship lay the foundation for the shipwreck of their later marriage. The Church calls marriage "Holy Matrimony."

A Snake Story.

A freshman sends us a clipping (it will be posted at the Sorin rack for the benefit of the curious) which gives what purports to be an authentic story of the snake-infested grave of one Chester Bedell, North Benton, Ohio, atheist, who died in 1908, after having on various occasions challenged God by saying, "If there is a God my grave will be infested with snakes." The account gives the stories of numerous witnesses who state that this particular grave (and no other in the cemetery) is always infested with snakes; the sexton is said to have killed as many as twenty of them in a single day. -- The student who sends in the clipping asks for an opinion on the matter. Here it is: God may visit visible judgments on particular cases of blasphemy, but He seldom does; He reserves most of His judgments for the other world.

PRAYERS: John Bergan is still very low. Dr. Wilson underwent an operation for appendicitis yesterday. Harry Kilburger's mother died suddenly last night; Chas. Rohr, '30, lost his father last night. Fr. Hudson, C.S.C., editor of the Ave Maria for more than fifty years, was anointed yesterday. Relatives of Bob Sullivan and Frank Hochreiter are seriously ill. Two deceased friends. Eight special intentions.