

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
May 2, 1932.

Announcements.

Rogation Days, Monday to Wednesday - prayers for crops and temporal favors.

Daily Adoration: Exposition, 7:30 a.m.; Benediction, 5:15 p.m.

Feast of the Ascension, Thursday, Holyday of obligation. Masses: 6, 7, 8, 9 - only!

Novena for Pentecost: begins Friday - daily prayers at Benediction. Note:

1. Leave at Sorin pamphlet rack names of those in whose conversion you are interested;
2. Remember the needs of the Fort Wayne diocese (Diamond Jubilee this year).

Hymns at the Grotto - daily after supper.

First Friday: Mass of Exposition, 6:30; Benediction, 7:00 and 7:30.

Sterilizing the Child's Intellect.

They are still after the poor kids. Dr. Robert K. Speer, of New York University, is quoted in today's papers as asserting that 85% of the arithmetical instruction of children in the schools today is waste. He is quoted directly as follows:

"Who cares if children are not proficient in complex fractions, arithmetical ratios, foreign exchanges, arithmetical and geometrical progression, involution, square and cubic root? If we teach all the children the arithmetic necessary in the following activities -- buying at a store, making change, reading, writing letters, and traveling -- we will have covered a large percentage of their total use of arithmetic."

In other words, teach the little monkeys a few stunts, but don't give them any principles from which to derive conclusions. As it is taught today arithmetic is barren enough of principles - and it is about the only thing the public grade schools teach today in which a glimmer of reasoning process can be found - but Dr. Speer would have the tabula rasa of the child's mind a complete, total, and unqualified blank. And the worst of it is that he will probably have his way.

A generation ago "advanced" thinkers abolished memory work in the grades because it was "parrot-like." They substituted "understanding" - or thought they did. When they did away with the memorized facts which used to constitute a sound portion of every child's meagre equipment for scholarship, they took down the pegs on which he could later hang his wardrobe of thought. Well, he hasn't much of a wardrobe left, so he doesn't miss the pegs as much as his father would. "Child-welfare" is a "wonderful" thing. It's too bad we didn't have some of it when we were kids.

Questions From The Questionnaire.

87. What does the Church teach regarding Holy Communion?

Ans. You will have to be more specific if you want your question answered here. The pamphlet "Holy Communion," by Msgr. de Segur, is probably what you want.

88. Why haven't we a course on marriage?

Ans. We have. It is treated specifically in the moral and dogma courses, and every class that permits questions runs more to marriage than anything else. There is a sociology course on the family; the subject also comes up in ethics. The pamphlet rack furnishes you with more pamphlets on marriage than on any other topic; the Religious Bulletin gives it a big blow. But can't you arouse intellectual curiosity in anything else?

89. What should one do when he doubts about a sin?

Ans. Consult his confessor.

PRAYERS: Deceased relatives of Chas. Hafron and Ed Cannon; a deceased friend of another student. Sam Ferrari's grandfather is very low; a friend of another student is quite ill with pneumonia. Mr. Borland's condition continues serious. John Montague, '23, asks a continuance of prayers for his little daughter. Three thanksgivings. Four special intentions.