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Meditations For Young Americans.

A German professor criticizes American universities for the "essential practical purpose" that dominates them. Always to be doing, with external achievement the goal, ever to be planning and fighting against the forces that threaten wealth and convenience -- this is, he thinks, the great American occupation, even in the universities. Meditation as a factor in human development, among us, is an antiquated art. theorists, dreamers, idlers, we call these meditative men!

And yet here at Notre Dame, beginning next Monday morning, practical-minded young Americans will start their annual Novena of Meditations in preparation for Christmas. A half hour each day they will kneel in the presence of their God and try to fathom the mystery of love that brought Him to earth that first Christmas morning. They will picture to themselves the minute circumstances of His birth, the manger, the stable, the beasts. They will look into the faces of the Infant, of Mary and Joseph, of the Wise Men who came so far with their gifts. They will try to catch the spirit of love, of adoration, of contrition expressed in these faces.

They will travel, in fancy, to the nearby hillsides where the Angels broke to the lowly shepherds the tidings of great joy. They will try to strengthen and deepen their grasp on all the circumstances of the momentous fact of the Incarnation.

Then they will turn upon themselves perhaps, asking Our Lord to show them how they may grow more worthy in the intervening days of receiving Him Christmas morning. Some sin, some habit of sin, perhaps, in their lives, worries them. They are curious that way, these young Americans. They will want to know how to get rid of it.

They will ask spiritual and temporal favors for their families, for their mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters, for their friends. They will want all close to them happy Christmas morning, in spite of the depression, in spite of sickness and family troubles, in spite of everything. They have faith that only God can bring about such things. They have confidence that somehow, if they pray hard enough, and sacrifice enough, He will do it for them on Christmas morning.

Funny mixture, aren't they, these young Americans? External achievement..... deep prayer.

A few years back young Americans, on their own initiative, started the Christmas Novena here at Notre Dame. Its momentum has increased each year. Now it is an established institution.

Perhaps this is not the sort of thing that would impress the German Professor. Anyway, it lifts them out of the practical, places them in another world. And that, according to his own theories, is the great advantage of meditation. What draws these young men is this: their meditations are not mere mental exercises at all. They are devout, sincere prayers, offered up in the presence of their God. And on the promise of God Himself they bring down from Heaven real help and consolation. This may be the secret of the success of the meditations for young Americans here at Notre Dame.

Promoters Needed.

To insure the success of the Christmas Novena of Adorations, promoters are needed to secure the names of those who will adore during the half-hour periods of those nine days. One student from each hall should volunteer to distribute the adoration cards. Call tonight for the cards for your hall; Fr. Cavanaugh has them, at 117 Dillon. Gather the names tonight and tomorrow; turn them in Thursday, so that gaps can be filled.

PRAYERS: Ill - Father Carey (serious infection). Deceased - Joe Mason's mother; the father of Dick Harrison, ex-'36; Robert Carroll (ex-student). Six special ints.