

University of Notre Dame  
Religious Bulletin  
November 17, 1934.

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Filth and Fiction.

Christ placed the battle for purity, where few people place it,--because of their insincerity--in the heart: "Blessed are the clean of heart for they shall see God."

The will is the cause of personal morality, good or bad. Hence the importance of protecting that inner sanctuary of the mind and heart.

You cannot swill and garbage your mind and heart with suggestive movies, vile reading, and filthy conversation without turning yourself into an immoral beast. And you can't constantly pasture your mind on wholesome food without being clean of heart.

Gertrude Atheton, in her column, "Words and Deeds", speaks out on filth in modern literature:

"That filth is really unnecessary in the most modern fiction is amply illustrated by the delightful stories of Damon Runyon. His worst enemies, if he has any, will hardly deny that he is as up-to-date as the last fashion in haircuts or baseball slang. Also, that his characters are so hard-boiled it is a wonder they don't crack open--they recall the old slang phrase 'tough as tripe.' And yet there is not an offensive phrase nor word in any of his stories, although he must be making money by the bushel. But then, he has talent, imagination and the seeing eye. Filth to him would be just one more superfluity.

"Of course, I could mention the names of many authors who have maintained their proud positions despite the inroads of the proletarian novels (which are merely dull), and whose only hope is to out-do old Smollett and Fielding, but I am chiefly concerned here with the state of mind that confuses modernism with impudicity, and whose exponents, lacking the natural gifts of a Damon Runyon, strive for prominence by walking on stilts and shouting naughty words."

On The Flannel Mouth.

No one is more ridiculous than the Catholic college man noted for a coarse, vile mouth. Absolutely no vice is more senseless, certainly none yields less personal pleasure than habitual cursing and swearing. There is no profit in the habit, and, socially, it makes a man at best third-rate--unless he plans to spend his life with thugs and morons. Often the habits mar the effect of an otherwise fairly decent fellow. About the only possible motive for it is the desire to appear hard-boiled. And certainly every egg who swears to be hard-boiled has a yellow center. Don't be a goof. If you have the habit of swearing, get rid of it. Single out one bad expression and concentrate on it for a week. Give a nickel to the poor every time you use that particular expression. After you get rid of one, take up another until you clean up. But clean up!