

Deceased, Mr. Fred Amison,
manager of the university
laundry; Eileen Conley's
grandmother. 2 spec. ints.

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
October 22, 1936

Mass for Stove Finan's fath-
er, 7:20, Tuesday, Dillon;
request of K. of C.'s. --De-
ceased, Fr. L.G. Hofschneider.

Science and Miracles.
By Arnold Lunn.

Question VII. Surely science has disproved the possibility of miracles.

Answer. A few years ago I challenged the skeptics who were present at a discussion to name any Catholic belief which had been refuted by science. Somebody mentioned the Resurrection. Now even in the unenlightened period before scientists discovered that a valid argument can be based on a missing link, it was widely suspected that a dead body usually remained in the coffin in which it had been placed. Science, so far from disproving miracles, helps to prove them, for it is precisely because Science teaches that certain effects always follow certain causes that we are encouraged to suspect the introduction of a new factor when the normal effect is modified. A dead body, says Science, does not recover of itself the power of self motion. Agreed, and therefore when we discover that a dead body has recovered that power we do not assume that Science has let us down. We know some new factor has modified the effect which Science only predicted. The operative words are, of course, 'of itself'. Science does not pretend to predict the action of a dead body to which God restores the power of life.

An apple falling freely from the tree will hit the ground. Science teaches therefore that the cause, apple falling freely, will be followed by the effect, apple strikes ground. But if I stretch out my hand and intercept the apple, a new factor is introduced, and the apple does not reach the ground. The normal effect of gravity has been modified by human will, but the law of gravity is not violated. Peter de Rudder walked into the shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes at Oostacker with a broken leg which had never united. Science leads us to believe that a broken leg does not unite instantaneously unless natural causes are modified by some factor which Science has not yet analyzed. De Rudder walked out with his bones united. We do not say that scientific laws have been violated. We recognize that a new factor, the divine will, has modified the normal effects of natural law. "The interference of human will," said John Stuart Mill, "with the course of Nature is not an exception to law; and by the same rule interference by the divine will would not be an exception either."

N.B. The Catholic should memorize the details of some of the more important modern miracles. The modern world is increasingly interested in the supernatural. If you run out of subjects of conversation at your next dance, try your partner, either with miracles or with Psychological Research. If you're a girl, he'll ask you for the next dance, and if you're a man, she'll cut the next dance and give it to you. But you must know your facts. The Catholic Truth Society publishes an excellent pamphlet on the de Rudder miracle. Modern scientists are beginning to accept certain miracles as proved. Thus Professor Haldane in our correspondence "accepted the cure of Peter de Rudder as possibly true" (page 209), and Professor Alexis Carrel of the Rockefeller Institute accepts not only miracles but the belief that they are caused by prayer (Man The Unknown). Haldane, of course, while inclined to accept the facts, denies our explanation, and that brings me to

Question VIII. How do you know that these miracles will not be explained some day by Science?

.....At the request of the S.A.C., there will be a Mass for the team Saturday morning, 6:25, main church. This time, for sure, everybody out!

CORRECTION: Clause in 13th sentence of paragraph 3 in October 20 Bulletin should read, "as is the habit of too many of those who bear the Catholic name, etc."

MEMORANDA: Go to Father Gillis' lecture at 8 tonight in Washington Hall; his subject: "Faith After a Century of Science".

PRAYERS: (deceased) sister of Arthur Davis (Morr.); mother of friend of Jerry Donovan (St. Ed's); father of Sr. Agnes Alma, Nowburgh, N.Y.; Monsignor Rupert, Delphos, Ohio; mother of Dr. Robert Roach, '31; grandfather of Bartholomew O'Tools (Morr.); mother of Joseph P., '25, and Thomas A., '26, Burko; Mr. Thomas Dillon, grandfather of John McGoo, C.S.C.; father of Ed McCann, old student. Ill, aunt of Charlie (Dill.) and Dick (Fresh.) Metzger; friend of Mike Scully (Alum.); Paul Nowak (How.).