

Condition of Leonard
Casassa (Mor.) critical.
Pray hard for him.

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FIRST FRIDAY. Ador-
ation all day; mass
6:35 main church; Bene-
diction 7 and 7:30....

Translations From The Vernacular--III.
"Tough As You Make It."

We were all waiting for the doctor, so long in fact that the wait had become rather tedious. Only one of the group attempted conversation. Once or twice he read a squib or two from an ancient magazine and commented jerkily upon them to his neighbor. But the latter replied merely in bored "Ohs" and "Yesses" and "You-don't-says." And the attempt at conversation dwindled into complete silence.

In one corner the priest read his breviary. In another a serious-looking lad prepared a lesson in Spanish. Then entered the Irrepressible.

Taking in the company with a sweeping glance, a light flashed into his eyes, which, judging by what followed, could be interpreted as meaning, "Ah, here's meat for my curiosity!"

Off came his coat, and then the announcement, "There's something the matter with my stomach. But if that doctor don't come soon, I ain't gonna wait. Catch me missin' my dinner. What's the matter with you, cold?"

"Yep. I'll say."

And to another, "Sprain your ankle?" The sufferer nodded assent. "Well, you must belong in Phy Ed. They're always doin' that over there. Not much else to do, I guess."

At this the pursuer of Spanish verbs looked up from his book. Fatal move. His turn had come.

"Say, what course you in?"

"Physical Education." And in no apologetic tone.

"Cinch course, ain't it? Everybody says 'tis. What I mean, there's no tough courses in it."

Well, they are as tough as you want to make them." There was a pause. The Phy Ed regarded his questioner calmly, but offered no further explanation. The Irrepressible subsided.

NOTE: Poor Souls' Novena services at First Friday Benediction, 7 and 7:30 p.m.

"As tough as you make it."

A short phrase, but one packed with implications. It is easily assumed that such courses as metaphysics and mathematics, Greek and Accounting, are tough in se, of their own right, without invitation to be so, and for all and sundry, without distinction of persons or places--tough by inherent disposition and acquired reputation, tough beyond doubt and beyond redemption.

It is further assumed that by comparison all other subjects, and some in particular, are delicate and dainty, shy and respectful to all comers, yielding up their treasures to the least formidable inquirer, and without even demanding a modest coin of effort.

It is finally assumed that those who elect the former, by that very fact are entitled to a reputation of studiousness, while those who choose the latter need to defend themselves against the charge of "cinch" courses.

Whether the Phy Ed reflected like this is not known. At any rate, his challenge went unanswered. He did not say that every course was equally easy or equally difficult.

His approach was not through the subject, which is passive, but through the student, who is capable of varying degrees of activity. He saw no reason why one could not, so to speak, float through metaphysics and row hard in minor sports or wind instruments. He refused to admit that "toughness", i.e., the opportunity for earnest effort, hard work, should be a monopoly of the speculative studies or the physical sciences. Art, too, he thought, even the recreational arts, provides the willing and ambitious with unlimited avenues of endeavor.

You are right, Buddy. A man can be a man in any avocation, and he can satisfy himself in any walk of life.