

ARE WE REALLY ADVANCING

For approximately 30,000 years, according to reports made by sociologists, the peoples of the world have been faced with the task of building a sound, permanent culture. From studies made by archaeologists, we have been given some idea of the primitive culture of the early peoples. Also, through a study of history and sociology we have been given a fairly accurate account of the steps leading up to our present day culture. Looking back several thousand years one finds man working with stone implements. A few hundred years later we discover that man has advanced to a point where he now uses bronze and iron. Even from this small observation, we can see that as time went on man progressed, more noticeably, perhaps, in the type of weapons and implements he used. This progress has continued down through the ages until the present day when it blooms forth in what is called The Modern Age.

There has probably never been a period in history when people were so vividly made aware of the age they lived in as are the people living in the Modern Age. Radios blare out the success of men along lines of advanced warfare. Newspapers flash old headlines of new discoveries in Science and Industry. Doctors inform of remedies for sicknesses which were previously unknown. Teachers expound in no small detail, the high standard of education, while parents, seeing no alternative, strive arduously to educate their children.

Were a person to make a comparison between the people living in The Modern Age and those who lived several hundreds years ago, it is quite likely that the present age would be thought of as being superior to the latter. We can see, however, that this is hardly true as the culture of today is a conglomeration of ideas, folkways, and mores, passed down to us from preceding generations. It is quite true that we have progressed tremendously along scientific lines, but does this actually prove anything? Had these improvements been designed to help man reach his final end, we could then say that the present age has progressed along lines of religion. But a further comparison shows that the people several hundred years ago were probably more inclined toward religions than the people of

today. Now we might ask ourselves: just how much has advanced science helped us attain our final end? When this is carefully considered people may begin to see that we have progressed very little along lines that are really worthwhile.

It takes very little observation for one to realize that The Modern Age is setting a pattern for men to follow, and that pattern is inclined to eliminate God from Society. Not only has the pattern been set but the means to carry it out are readily available, from the fact that people are easily led away from God. Society has become corrupt, because the family, its basic unit, has failed to carry out its functions. Marriage is no longer considered sacred, and divorces are granted practically for the asking. We become aware of how corrupt is the present day mind, when we realize how widespread is the practice of birth control. People have become so self-centered that they fail to see children as God's creatures composed of a body and soul. This trend is again evidenced in the field of industry, where man is considered more or less as part of the machinery with which he works. This again proves how narrow-minded are the people of the present age, when we consider this disregard for the human element in man. Secularism has been fostered to such an extent, that we rarely hear of God except in church. As this practice develops, man develops accordingly and, as a result, his actions in daily life tend to stifle the actions of those who would bring back Christ to society. Each day we see how warped is the present day mind, when we speculate on the so-called pleasures to which The Modern Age tends. While we recognize that movies, television and dances have their place, we cannot be blind to the fact that they have been used as a means of leading us away from God. Consider the variety of books in public news stands. Are these the kind of books a conscience-free people would constantly demand?

Yes we can readily see that The Modern Age has not provided a place for God and is making little effort to do so. We may conclude that, although the peoples of past centuries may have been backward along scientific lines, they were fortunate because religion was so much a part of their lives that the things that really mattered in life were constantly before their minds. Examine the many and varied labor saving devices we have today, the various

forms of entertainment offered us, and then consider how much they have helped us towards our final end. Then we may ask ourselves: Are we **really** advancing?

—Thomas McGaugh '55.

FAR AWAY

As I lay here on my pillow,
Hopes suspended like a willow,
Oh! I long to be so far away.
I want to rid myself of sorrow,
'Cause I know that on the morrow,
They will come and take me
Far away.

Then they'll lead me to a cell,
Make my life a living hell,
To ones I love, more words I ne'er will say.
I'll be a number, not a name,
I'll bow my head, retreat in shame,
And pray to God to take my life away.

My life, I know, is not worth living,
Yet I loath to think of giving
To them that life so they can away
My hopes, for that is all that I have left.
Now I vow that on my death,
They will not be near me
Far away.

Yes, before this night is over,
A silence o'er this house will hover,
Never more I'll see the light of day.
They will come and find my body,
Yet, they'll come but will not find me:
I, though dead, will be so far away.

—Danny McCarron '57

XI. The family is more sacred than the state.—Pope Pius