

The number began. Alas, it was a fast one. My premonition had been but too true. I realized that this was my last stand. Do or die. But I was doomed. For the music kept getting faster and faster and faster; and the bumps more and more frequent. Shuffle, bump . . . shuffle, bump . . . shuffle, bump . . . (Why wouldn't they slow down?) I could feel that everyone in the hall was looking at me. Well let them look; it didn't matter any more. My reputation was already ruined. Carelessly, I forged ahead, looking neither to left or right. Bump . . . bump . . . bump . . . Like a small craft in the Bay of Biscay, I was jostled about the floor at the same time determinedly returning each bump (Were they ever going to stop?) My partner attempted to lure me towards the side, away from the mad melee; but no, I remained adamant in my purpose, and continued to fight it out in the very centre of the vicious scramble. Bump . . . bump . . . bump . . . bump . . .

Finally the music, (if indeed it was worthy of that term) ceased. Immediately, I pushed madly towards the door. Everybody was staring at me, but that did not deter me from my one purpose—to flee from that infernal mad-house.

What a sigh of relief I breathed when I found myself once again on the street! I left my top coat behind, but what did that matter compared with the joy I felt on having escaped from that ordeal? I decided at that moment that never again would I darken the doors of a dance-hall. Give me back the tramp . . . tramp . . . tramp . . . and the occasional show. I'm satisfied .

—ANON.

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### THE GOLDEN YEARS

The radiating rays of the setting sun pierced through the stained-glass windows of the little parish church at St. Andrew's as Father Delaney, a Redemptorist, was concluding the parish mission with the words "I hope that you have made a good mission; if you have put nothing into it, then you have got nothing from it. As far as you are concerned, the success of this mission can best be judged not by how you have acted during the past week, but by your actions of the incoming week, of the next month and more-over during the rest of your lives."



Our sojourn at St. Dunstan's may be compared to a mission—one which is not primarily concerned with our past life but rather with our intellectual, spiritual and cultural training which will equip us for the struggle which lies ahead. Too many of us who pass through the classrooms of St. Dunstan's fail to realize that our education has this threefold aspect and either develop one at the expense of the others or develop none at all.

As students at St. Dunstan's it should be our aim to acquire a liberal education, which is at our disposal if we make an effort to attain it. Here, it is neither the purpose of the school nor the teachers to train us primarily for professions. Rather they propose to enable us to receive "a training by which the intellect as Cardinal Newman emphasizes "instead of being formed or sacrificed to some particular or accidental purpose, some specific trade or profession, or some study or science, is disciplined for its own sake for the perception of its own highest culture." Moreover, in his book *Scope and Nature of University Education*, Cardinal Newman urges us to first acquire a liberal education and then, if we so desire, go on to training for some particular profession.

Since man's noblest faculty, as a rational animal is his intellect, his ultimate perfection consists in the perfection of his intellect. For us, as Christians, our ultimate perfection or fount of happiness is God and we can come closest to God in this life by the perfection of our intellect. Therefore it should be the aim of each one at a Catholic College to develop his intellect as much as possible. This training consists in acquiring a liberal education, one which will give us not a mechanic's outlook on life, whose one end is the gathering of a large sum of wealth, but a true, Christian, liberal one based on love of God and Charity which can alone lead to man's final good.

If we are going to acquire such a mental training here, we must not depend only on our texts, even though our study therein can provide us with basic principles which can only serve as a guide in our further reading. A great part of our education should be acquired from books, written by other eminent authors on subjects relating to those discussed in our texts. It is the duty of our professors to engender such research and it is our duty as students to indulge in such mental search for knowledge. If we are faithful to our tasks in this regard, if opposed to that principle by which everything in our books must be memor-



ized, and if we make a real effort to figure out just what ideas are there, to set these ideas in our minds and then think them over, we really are getting some valuable training of mind.

In a Catholic College our spiritual training should play a very important role. At St. Dunstan's we are given ample opportunity to develop ourselves spiritually, but unfortunately many of us fail to realize this and do not benefit in full from our daily religious exercises, but adopt a careless attitude towards such matters. Dante, in his famous work **The Divine Comedy** places the indifferent ones—the Trimmers—in Hell because of their sin. These people during their lifetime adopted a careless attitude to religion and life, but for all eternity must suffer for their indifferentism in Hell. Perhaps some of us can be compared to the Trimmers, and it would be well for us to give heed to our Lord's statement in the Apocalypse "I know thy works. Thou are neither hot nor cold; I would that thou wert hot or cold but because thou art lukewarm and neither cold nor hot, I am about to vomit thee out of my mouth."

We must never forget, moreover, that with God's help we can do anything and no matter how hard our studies may seem, no matter how rough our path for the future may appear, there is one who can guide us over this way if only we are willing to abide in Him.

There is also a cultural aspect to our training and it would seem that in this viewpoint our education at St. Dunstan's is most complete. At St. Dunstan's we are enabled to develop ourselves culturally along many lines; in our games, in our classroom discussions and in our living together as one big family. However, some of us forget that athletics is not in itself an end, but rather one of the means to an end. We come to college to study and get an education, not to play on the football or hockey teams. We play games to develop healthy bodies, ones wherein our minds can best be trained. It is true that our games can have a very beneficial effect on us and make us popular among our fellows but the heroes of our college and of our country should be scholars, rather than athletes. Moreover, while at St. Dunstan's most of the students, forgetting that art is very important in our cultural development fail to give any considerable time to its study.

Where a group of students are living together many and rich social benefits may be reaped. Here we have opportunity for learning how to get along with people by look-



ing at their side of the picture as well as our own, opportunity to see the good points in our fellowmen and opportunity for discussion. Discussions give backward students a chance to express their opinions and hear the opinions of others, as a result of which they will place more confidence in themselves. Students in this way have a chance to solve their difficulties, settle their disputes and have reasons for the belief that lies in them.

While here we should strive to form in ourselves a really worthwhile outlook on life and on the things around us. Once again we must read a great deal, especially from the books recommended by our teachers, and from the fine magazines which are available in our library.

Always we must keep in mind that we have a purpose in being at college, and it is our duty to live up to it. Many young people in the war-torn countries of the world as well as in our own province would be happy to have our opportunity. For all of us our days at college are numbered. If we make use of the remaining months or years, as the case may be, it may mean the difference between our success and failure in life.

After we leave St. Dunstan's we must go forth into a world, where God is being neglected in an age of materialism, where Communism is infatuating the minds of men and where the pungent pangs of another World War seem inevitable. Much will be expected of us—perhaps a great deal more than we will have to offer—but if we have been faithful to our purpose while here we can rest assured that we are prepared for the future.

Our education is only beginning during our years at college and will be continued throughout the remainder of our lives. Nevertheless, while here our main interest is our success as students and if, when we have turned the key in our door for the last time we can say in all sincerity, "Our sojourn here has not only been most happily spent but has been a most successful and lucrative one," then we can be content that we have made a good mission, we have fulfilled our end at college and can be justly proud of ourselves. Our success will be re-echoed throughout our lifetime, our example will be the inspiration of our fellowmen and our charity and good works will lead many others to the fold of Christ.

—ANDREW REDMOND '51