
POCKETS FULL

Unlike G. K. Chesterton I do not "carry about with me an unknown treasury". In fact I carry in my pockets only two things—two things which are utmostly useful. In the pocket on the left hand side of my pants I carry a rosary. In my right pants pocket lies a single object, a handkerchief.

Anyone who doesn't know me would say these two implements symbolize my dominant characteristics. These they would classify as Godliness and cleanliness. I say "anyone who doesn't know me" would reason thus, for that isn't the true cause for my carrying only those two objects. There is a much more practical reason than that—my pockets are too small and too delicate to be burdened with heavier or bulkier loads.

Since Chesterton's death the world has been shocked and rocked by World War II. One world rocking effect of this war was the dropping of the vest from men's suits, "for the duration". I know several men who are suffering from extreme cases of "nudiphobia" because they still can't purchase matching vests with their suits. (Note: Must use this as one of evil results in paper against modern warfare.) The excuses offered for the discontinuance of "suit-vests" by the clothing industry, might also be used to defend the rationing of the quantity and quality of cloth "put into" men's trouser pockets. But the war has been over for about a decade now; and I'm still puncturing holes in my pockets in my urgent need for space. (It could also be said that that urgent need for expansion has relieved me of a few shirt buttons.) Under the light of these facts we can say that G. K. C.'s references to his pockets as "unknown abysses" and "bottomless chasms" are not applicable to these post war pockets. World War II, it might well be said, made known those abysses and placed bottoms in those chasms.

Some, no doubt, will say the reason the receptacles attached to my pants are so small and fragile is that I buy my apparel at sales. That is embarrassingly true; but how am I to overcome this when every bit of clothing in all the stores is always a week-end, an autumn, a spring or a Christmas "special"? The least understood fact of our time is that the "perpetual sale" has not produced "perpetual consumption", but rather has increased sporadic buying.

Others will say: "Why not have your clothes made to your specifications?" All well and good, but who wants to squat in a dingy tailor shop when one can walk into an ultra modern store and be served by "bright young men", who all but prostrate before you, even if you cannot buy what you want.

Although there has been a decrease in the size and quality, there has been no decrease in the number, of pockets. Manufacturers still persist in providing the watch pocket, an accessory which lost its usefulness in the reign of George V, of before-my-memory. The material wasted in this unnecessary niche might be added to either of the side pockets.

It would be a peculiar situation if some skeptic didn't question the absence of money from my pockets. No, I didn't take a vow of poverty; I'm only a layman; laymen don't take vows; they merely practise them. Besides, even if I did have some money I wouldn't entrust it to those flimsy miniatures we moderns call pockets.

—PADDY '56.

THE NATURE OF HAPPINESS

God, in His loving generosity, made man an image of Himself, and a being with a mind and free will, and the power of self-mastery. Besides, He made him a sharer in the government of the corporeal world. History provides us with examples of the innumerable works man has done in attempting to dominate the world given him by God. Yet is there not a deeper reason for the many activities performed by man? Is it that he works and plans solely to earn a living, to amass riches, or to acquire fame? Since all of us share the same human nature, is there not something common to all of us that inwardly urges us to act as we do? Every human being has within him that which makes him strive for what will satisfy all his desires. He believes that the acquisition of such a thing will make him happy. Here then is the key to all human activity. It is not pleasure, nor enjoyment, but it is the possession of what will satisfy all his desires. It is happiness.

The actions of man must be understood as human actions, actions performed freely and deliberately, for a reason, and to attain a goal. Because of his very nature man is capable of looking beyond the present instant to the goal which he seeks in all that he does. Because of this goal he wills to do a particular thing and thus goes on from act to