

THE TEMPO OF COMMERCIAL RECREATION

Thomas MacLellan, '46

We are living in a "streamlined" age. The train has been streamlined to accelerate its speed; clerical work has been streamlined by the introduction of the adding machine, the typewriter, and other such devices; even acts of religion have become streamlined, as seen in the case of the man who attends seven-thirty Mass in order to reach the golf links, the tennis court, or the beach at an earlier hour on Sunday, or merely to avoid sitting through a high Mass and a sermon. Every phase of modern life, it would seem, has become streamlined.

It is not surprising, then, that recreation long ago reached a "tempo accelerato" or became streamlined. The good old tea parties of twenty years ago, the lively, old fashioned country-dance, the rollicking sing-songs, the village baseball and hockey team, the Sunday afternoon buggy ride, and many other forms of recreation of a generation ago have been almost forgotten; their places have been taken by the material creation of our streamlined age: talking pictures, the modern dance hall, the radio, contract bridge, the automobile, and all the other streamlined activities and devices of today.

This revolution in recreation has been pernicious to the individual and the family, and, in consequence, to society in general. Life is yearly becoming more streamlined and artificial too, as may be observed within the memory of each one of us. The number of those who gather at the village park to play a game of baseball, or even to watch a game being played is becoming smaller and smaller; they prefer to stay at home and listen to what they call a game of real ball, played in New York or St. Louis. Seldom is a young man seen learning to play the violin as a means of entertainment for himself, a custom common in the last generation. The buggy has given place to the high-powered motor car.

These are but a few of the many examples of streamlined and commercialized recreation that might be cited. All this has brought about a most lamentable disintegration of family life. The home is no longer that sanctuary of parental love and filial devotion that it was in the medieval age or even in

the last generation. Too many young men and young women today make the home merely a place in which to sleep and to eat the occasional meal. For such as these, perhaps the day is spent in a dingy office, the night in a cinema or night club.

If we wish to be logical in maintaining that the present day in an age of true progress, we must institute some measures of reform in recreation: we must do away with much of present-day "streamlining" that is so pernicious to civilized life. Family life must be reintegrated. The home must once more be made the best place on earth for the whole family, parents and children alike. This can be done chiefly by doing away with much of our commercialized recreation and by restoring the home to its former and proper place, as a center of family life, love, education, and recreation.



Dost thou love life ?
Then do not squander time,
For that is the stuff life is made of.

—*B. Franklin*

Never anything can be amiss,
When simpleness and duty tender it.

—*Shakespeare.*

Dare to be true. Nothing can need a lie;
A fault which needs it most, grows two thereby.

—*Herbert.*