

OUR CATHOLIC MAGAZINES.

One of the worst forms of the abnormal craving for reading of this end-of-the-century generation, is the magazine craze. Classics, histories, biographies, or standard works of any kind require too much mastication for the cheap-literature fiend. He must have something highly flavored and easily soluble. His recourse is the novel-magazine, and the name magazine, once applied to high-class literature, now covers a multitude of scrofulous periodicals unworthy of the name of literature or of the dignity of print. The reading world is flooded with this most convenient but pernicious trash, and one of the questions for the wise to solve now is, how to drain it off, or destroy its evil influence. It is instilling bad principles, corrupting the taste, and defiling the morals of the public. What is to be done in the absence of any censorship of the press to stem this tide of literary degeneracy? Evidently the only remedy is a re-agent, something which will lead the public favor to purer sources, and purge the diseased taste by establishing higher ideals, and sounder principles. This then is the mission of the Catholic magazine, a mission especially to those of the faith to safeguard them against the surrounding evils of the indifferent world. Our Catholic magazines are not, to be sure, all that might be desired, considering the immensity of the field in which they work, but they certainly deserve high praise for what they are. There are none of them earth-shakers; most of them are calculated to instruct and elevate by simple reading of devotional tendency, rather than to revolutionize by the evolution of startling theories and discoveries. *The Catholic World* contains works on learned topics, controversial and didactic, together with lighter reading; *Donahoe's*, the *Rosary* and the two new

ones the *Angelus* and *Walsh's Magazine*, correspond to the average ordinary, entertaining magazine, but are far superior to them in that their every line is the embodiment of pure Catholic sentiment, and they are free from all the conceit, and nudeness, and paganism so prevalent elsewhere. Then there are those devoted to special interests. The *Ave Maria* dedicated to the devotion of the Blessed Virgin, *The Messenger of the Sacred Heart*, promoting the interests of the Apostleship of prayer, and the *The Catholic Reading Circle Review* and the *Catholic School and Home* doing reading circle work. There are others too, but here is an outline of our forces, and valiant forces they are. These are the only means of protecting our Catholic youth from the loose, fetid, current magazine reading. When pure ideals are presented, and the beauty of Catholic tradition and belief kept before them, trashy literature is powerless. Our Catholic magazines have certainly a noble work to do; the pity is that they are not better appreciated and more powerfully re-inforced.

 SANCTUM NOTES.

We have just received the pamphlet announcing the result of last year's work in the Gregorian University, Rome. According to custom, the Oblate Students have distanced all competitors. The Gregorian University counts over one thousand students in theology, philosophy, and canon law. Its courses are attended by the members of the majority of the religious and national colleges in Rome. Though the Oblates are by no means the most numerous, they have for years past held first rank in the honor list. The latest report is not less favorable than its predecessors. The Oblate Scholastics