

# /// The BELLES /// OF SAINT MARY'S

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## WEEP NO MORE

"Laugh and the world laughs with you; weep and you weep alone" is a broad and much quoted statement, but one, nevertheless, which has underestimated depth. It is not merely an admonition to be ignored; it can be the basis of a new and finer life.

The girl at Saint Mary's, for instance, who looks as though she is a "gloomy gus" is not surrounded by friends and admirers; she is left alone to become more glum and to create the false feeling within herself that Saint Mary's is an unfriendly place and that "nobody likes her."

On the other hand, the girl who always has a friendly smile and a cheery "hey" invariably gets an equally cheery answer, and has a circle of friends who enjoy being with her. She is the girl whom Saint Mary's likes and who likes Saint Mary's.

To try hard to laugh and be merry when one feels "unsocial" is an ordeal the first time, but the second time it is much easier and pretty soon the cause of the woe is forgotten and smiling is "fun." After all, smiling is a matter of spirit as well as of mind, and as our minds have control over our actions (we hope they do!), it is just as easy to smile, and it is much pleasanter to the persons with whom we associate. Really, it's good medicine!

## MIND YOUR MANNERS

"A little politeness goes a long way" is never trite, and it is also an understatement, for a little courtesy and cordiality will go *all* of the way in gaining friends and admiration. Nothing achieves unpopularity as quickly as a lack of manners.

To have polished manners one must pay meticulous attention to details as well as to general rules. It is necessary to get so in the habit of courtesy that an ill-mannered word or deed seems unnatural. Once this habit is thoroughly acquired, peace of mind greatly increases, for then one need never worry about whether

or not she has been tactless or awkward; one becomes much more self-assured and is at ease in any situation.

Always the impression made by charming, natural good manners is a lasting one. And always the well-mannered person has automatically established a head-start over the discourteous person.

## ABUSE AND REFORMATION

The school library, as has been seen, is small and consequently inadequate to serve a very large number of students, but it must serve its purpose until a new one can be managed, regardless of annoying crowded conditions. So it would seem that until then students would be willing to contribute their part by coöperation and strict observance of library regulations.

In general, most students are very conscientious about them. They are as anxious to maintain quiet as they are to be considerate about the use of books. Conversely, a small group of dissenters persist in annoying those who are trying to study. Certainly they do not deliberately plow across the room on heavy foot, as if in imitation of a horse on a cobblestone street, any more than they intend to monopolize a reserve book while thirty other girls clamor for the same one. Neither do they deliberately confer for a half hour about home-comings, planning meanwhile the week-end wardrobe, transportation accommodations, and so forth, but it's done!

Innocent of intention as they may be, their thoughtlessness shows a selfish lack of consideration of the larger group who are trying to concentrate on next day's Economics or Biology. The immediate reformation of this abuse of the purpose of the library—to furnish a source of information by means of books and a quiet place where students may pursue it—may be affected simply by showing consideration for fellow students.

## WHICH ONE WHEN? II

It has been suggested that the order of the Saint Mary's dances be changed so that the Senior dance be given in the spring and the Junior-Senior in the fall. When it is so well established a custom for the Seniors to have the first dance of the year, why should a change be made? It is said that by having the Junior-Senior early in the year the Juniors who go on "blind dates" will then know someone who can come see them or ask them to dances. But if the Junior-Senior were given in the spring, the Juniors would by then know a few boys to invite and thus would not be dependent upon the other girls' friends. Then it is argued, the spring dance would be less crowded for the hot weather. There would be, however, very little more floor space, because each Senior invites twice as many people to the Senior dance, thus almost evening things up.

The Seniors have always looked forward to having the first dance of the year and there's a thrill about the first dance that cannot be equalled by any other. And for the Juniors themselves, it gives them something to look forward to, and it is certainly more fitting that they present the last dance to the Seniors as a parting gift.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Anyone who has any particular views on this subject will please write them and place them in the contributions box, which is located in the basement of Smedes, near the telephones.)