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The Ratio in Ragtime: Smile at Your Own Risk!

Review Author: Austin V. Dowd

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THE RATIO IN RAGTIME

SMILE AT YOUR OWN RISK! By Joseph T. McGloin, S.J. Milwaukee: Bruce, 1959. viii, 147p., illus.

This little book briefly and divertingly describes the Jesuits who teach high school and the boys they teach. It begins with an account of the origin of the Society of Jesus, its reason for being, and the many ways in which Jesuits work for the salvation of their own and their neighbors' souls. The rest of the book develops the main theme—an old story but vividly told in an off-beat way. Where words fail the author, his collaborator, Mr. Don Baumgart, supplies cartoons.

The purpose of the Jesuit high school, its courses of study and its extracurricular activities are tellingly described. Among the latter special attention is given to dramatics, the school paper and the Sodality of Our Lady. Scattered here and there throughout the book are homely bits of advice for the young Jesuit teacher. One of these provides the title for the work. Teaching requires quiet, attention and order on the part of the students and hence a compelling and slightly formidable gravity on the part of the teacher—at least in the beginning. If the novice teacher starts off with a smile, a roomful of boys watching like hawks for the slightest encouragement to break out into multiple mischief might take it as a sign of weakness. He "smiles at his own risk."

Jesuits leaving the scholasticate for their teaching assignments, boys thinking of going to a Jesuit high school, boys who have already taken that momentous step, the slightly harassed parents of such boys, and even innocent bystanders will profit from reading this book. However, this reviewer has a few brickbats to throw. There is entirely too much slang in the book. The author is obviously determined to be humorous; in spite of which—or perhaps because of it—his humor shows evidence of considerable strain in places. The cartoons are in general fun-making, but some could be eliminated without irreparable loss.

AUSTIN V. DOWD

RIZAL'S NATIONALISM

A CRITIQUE OF RIZAL'S CONCEPT OF A FILIPINO NATION.
By César Adib Majul. Diliman: University of the Philippines, 1959. 59p.

Graciano López Jaena, writing to Rizal on 2 October 1891, remarked that the conclusions regarding Philippine political and social