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## VATICAN OPPOSES BOOK BECAUSE OF PLAGIARISM

### Leading Rome Journal Tells of the Condemned Book.

ROME, June 10.—The Corriere della Sera publishes from its correspondent, who is generally well informed in matters concerning the Vatican, a statement which, if correct, would throw some light on the mystery of the condemnation of Signor Fogazzaro's novel, "Il Santo." The decision to condemn this book certainly required some explanation, in view of the apparent tolerance shown, not so much by the delay of its final condemnation, for the machinery of the congregation of the index always works slowly, as by the good humored comments of event the most uncompromising organs of Catholic opinion when it first appeared. That it would be denounced to the Congregation of the Index was, of course, a foregone conclusion.

But no one was prepared to believe that it would be condemned, or that the author, who has been always a staunch champion of his church, would be numbered among the enemies of the faith on account of a work so sincere and apparently so harmless in character. The book was, nevertheless, put on the index and what has caused still greater sensa-

tion and surprise to his friends, the author, Signor Fogazzaro, after a period of silence, has published his submission to the decree and professed his complete obedience to the Congregation of the Index. The Osservatore Romano accounts for the action of the Congregation in an article which, if it is intended to represent official views, most successfully hides them in a maze of feeble criticism and incoherent rhetoric. The gist of his remarks seems to be that the author of "Il Santo" was an unfortunate, ignorant and misguided person, who might have been ignored if he had not drawn the attention and shocked the conscience of the faithful majority. But the Osservatore Romano gives no specific reason for the actual condemnation.

The correspondent of the Corriere della Sera suggests a very different cause. He says that Signor Fogazzaro has been accused in the Vatican, whether rightly or wrongly he does not know, of having translated into Italian a well known brochure which was published by the Corriere della Sera, entitled "Confidential Letters to a Professor of Anthropology." Science, it cannot be denied that its propagation is followed by good results; that Christian Scientists are an unusually healthy, happy people, and that they are richly endowed with that rare accomplishment, brotherly kindness.

The Sunday service of the Christian Science Church consists of opening and closing exercises similar to those of other denominations. The distinguishing feature is the Lesson-sermon which Mrs. Eddy has instituted in the place of the clerical address. The Lesson-sermon is a compilation of Scriptural passages interspersed with correlative selections from the Christian Science text-book, Science and Health With Key to the Scriptures, by Mrs. Eddy.

It has been said that the Christian Science denomination is made up largely of recruits rescued from the grave, a very large percentage of Christian Scientist converts having become interested on account of the healing benefits which they have received. In fact, Christian Science has drawn its adherents from all classes, the clergy and medical fraternity included. Scarcely a village or town can be found which has not a band of Christian Scientists, and hardly an individual who has not some friend or relative that has been a beneficiary of it.

So numerous have Christian Scientists become within the last few years that public criticism of its teachings can no longer be indulged in without awaking prompt protest. The street-car and the railway coach may contain an ardent believer, and the dissenter frequently meets a prompt but kindly challenge when he makes statements derogatory to the cause or its Leader. Two young ladies on the front seat of an open street-car having just passed the Christian Science church in Boston, quite naturally began to speak on the subject of Christian Science, and it was noticed that a gentleman in the same seat began to move about uneasily as the conversation was more or less complimentary. At length he leaned over and said to the ladies: "I trust you will pardon the interruption of a stranger but I cannot refrain from telling you that more than fifteen years ago, after having lost all hopes of recovery, I was healed of consumption through Christian Science, and this to me is the strongest possible argument in its favor." The fair critics looked up in surprise at the strong, athletic man and speedily expressed a more considerate attitude of thought.

Not long since two gentlemen entered a railway coach. One of them was denouncing Christian Science in a heated manner. By and by his friend left the train, and a Christian Scientist who had overheard the conversation politely occupied the vacant seat and began to speak of some of the benefits which he had observed in connection with Christian Science treatment. The critic at once changed his tone and began to refer to benefits which he too had observed. This incident serves to suggest that which fosters and perpetuates the apparently unabating interest in the Christian Science movement. Whether or not we are ready to endorse Christian

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