When a freshman comes to Notre Dame he can't quite dope the Notre Dame man. He sometimes gets the idea that he is as tough as he wants to appear. Are they like the crowd at home? One Freshman last year said: "Their talk is just as bad, but I know that at heart they are much better." They are.

The Crust.

It sometimes takes four years to pierce the disguise of a Notre Dame man, but very few of them can get by for a longer period. The psychology of this disguise is very interesting.

Malice.

There isn't an ounce of malice in the normal Notre Dame man. Once in a great while you find a streak of malice -- the kind that takes a mean, low advantage of human trustfulness -- but a thorough examination will show that the subject is subnormal. There is an average amount of weakness and softness, and no end of complexes and inhibitions, all of which come under the head of children's diseases.

The Priesthood Inhibition.

The "priesthood inhibition" afflicts at least one-third of the students to a greater or lesser degree. Loving mothers and overzealous teachers have drilled it into little Willie's mind that he must be a priest. Willie soaks it all in until he meets his first case of puppy-love, and then he rebels. His reactions, to prove that he is not nice, run the gamut of dissipation from chewing tobacco to riding blind-baggage. If Willie were wise he would get advice from a prudent priest and follow a sane course of religious development that would make him a good husband and father.

The "Tough" Complex.

The "tough" complex we have always with us. A good example last year used to get drunk every Saturday night to be "one of the boys," although he hated the stuff -- and when he later fell into a little money he nearly killed himself with poison booze. The case is one of underdevelopment, and age is the only cure.

The Marriage Complex.

The "marriage complex" is a form of insanity. A student, preferably a freshman, gets moon-eyed over some college widow and he must get married right off before some other bimbo wakes up and cops her off. If he would only ask the telephone operator he could get her record. Marriage is a hard cure, but it seems the only one.

Rev. John F. O'Hara, C.S.C.,
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