Religious Bulletin
October 14, 1925

Prayers.

Prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of the mother of F.X.J. O'Brien, a student in Carroll Hall last year, and for three special intentions.

Certainly.

"Reverend Father: Will you have the great kindness to recommend a special intention to the Students. If granted, it means a 'fiver', at least for the fund. -- A.B."

What Has Become of the Fund?

During the first ten days of the Fr. Brooks-Van Wallace Fund, contributions amounted to $33.00. During the next days they have amounted to $13.00. To be exact, the amount collected to date is $106.05, plus 30 street car tokens, which, at the current rate, would amount to $7.50. (What to do with the tokens might bother some people. It has been suggested that they be kept for the expected vacation of Father Brooks, but that vacation may be delayed twenty years, during which time we lost the interest on them; and if it is not delayed, they might not be so serviceable, for fifteen trips to town is more than Fr. Brooks made during his four years at Notre Dame -- and besides he has developed into a great walker, since there are no car lines in the jungle where he works. Perhaps they should be sold at current rates -- or advanced rates, for a good cause.)

"Fifteen Hundred Hindus Under Instruction."

The current issue of The Bengalese gives some valuable information on the activities of Father Brooks. A letter from Br. Walter, C.S.C., says that Fr. Brooks has 150 converts under instruction, a letter from Br. Joachim (undated) says: "Good Fr. Brooks baptized over 60 last week. He is a real missionary. I am making him a little furniture. As he is too poor, I do not let him pay."

What Will Become of the Fund?

We have started out to build a house for Father Brooks, and perhaps we have one room built with the amount collected thus far. (At Notre Dame it costs about $1000 to build a room for a student; Fr. Brooks would get along beautifully in one costing one-tenth of that amount.) The fund was started because Fr. Brooks mentioned casually in a letter that he needed a new house. But in a letter published in The Bengal ese he mentions a different need that seems nearer his heart. Read what he has to say, and figure for yourselves what he is likely to do with the money you save from the Palais and poison gin:

"Prospects for new converts mean always, at least here, new schools.....I shall mention a few of the more favorable opportunities. At Thalakoli, four miles west of Haukagh, a school would have an enrollment of forty pupils; at Swayapur, two miles east, an enrollment of thirty; at Goalkali, four miles northeast of Mojidar-bitha, an enrollment of fifty or sixty.....At Jonidar-bitha, to my mind, judging from present results and prospects, there will be, in the course of ten years, three or four thousand Catholics.....One of the great advantages is that the people will be near and the priest will be able to sleep at home every night. The present stretch of territory under my care obliges me to be away from the main station for three weeks at a time. There are no roads, which renders travel difficult, especially at this season, where it is necessary to go through three or four feet of water in places."