More often than not, the arguments emanating from this hive of sophistry generate more heat than light. Sometimes, a syllogism limps pitifully -- its major ignored and its minor scrapped; and you can't tell the victor from the victim. What they really need to win an argument is a bit of psychology -- for example:

"The way to convince another is to state your case moderately and accurately. Then scratch your head, or shake it a little, and say that is the way it seems to you, but that, of course, you may be mistaken about it. This causes your opponent to receive what you have to say, and as likely as not, turn about and try to convince you of it, since you are in doubt. But if you go at him in a tone of positiveness and arrogance, you only make an opponent of him."

-- Franklin.

There are some interesting characters duplicated in every hall, and they are also involved in discussions of one sort or another, largely based on a memory-filled vacation. Many merely exaggerate, and they are relatively harmless. Then, there are the stories that emerge sensational. Some even violate good taste.

Beware of the fellow who, if he were psychoanalyzed, would be labeled as one with an inferiority complex. He is in reality one who fears, or realizes, a personal weakness. He then tries to hide it by boasting of superiority in that line. He may be very cowardly, and so will brag about fictitious victories. Or, he will boast of an ungovernable temper in an effort to have you think it necessary to hold him back, lest he tear an adversary to shreds. Many a weakling boasts of past exploits merely to cover up a secret weakness.

Then there is the so-called "hard-boiled" individual. He relies largely on a salty vocabulary and tall stories to impress upon you the fact that he is hard-boiled. His evidence is anemic, really, because it is a defense mechanism, nothing more, and hardly worthy of your awe or time.

Come to think of it, the really "hard-boiled" man fears no one. And yet, the man who is popularly supposed to be hard-boiled is a peculiar kind of coward. He is a coward because he would rather lie than have you believe he is wanting in courage. He offends against God and truth because he is a slave to human respect. There's nothing rugged about him at all.

Remember, the really "hard-boiled" man is tough on himself. He's a fellow who always acts from principle, and that's not easy. He goes along and minds his own business -- whatever it is -- and shows a bit of courage when it is needed. Most of the time very few words are needed. In matters that concern justice and morality he is at his best. He reminds you of the martyrs who were really hard-boiled -- like Lucy, and Agnes, and Catherine. Their conduct was their best argument. They overcame the world, and the flesh, and the Devil. And only a genuinely "hard-boiled" individual will ever accomplish that victory.

There's lots of conversation these days about the Easter vacation. Some of it bears sifting. Much of it is nothing more than excelsior coming from heads filled with the same. Don't believe everything you hear, even though it's not dull.

PRAYERS REQUESTED - Deceased: uncle of Tom Quail of Lyons; Rodger Kenney (0-C).

Dr. Thomas Dooley speaks Monday at 8 p.m. in the Drill Hall. Plan to hear him.