

Box A38

---

---

DO YOU BELIEVE IN RELIGIOUS  
INSTRUCTION FOR CHILDREN?

---

---

*CLERGYMEN SAY IT IS ESSENTIAL*

***BUT***

READ THIS AND BE  
DISILLUSIONED!

MOORE THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE LIBRARY



3 2042 10000862 6

Do good, for good is good to do;  
Spurn bribe of heaven and threat of hell.

—The Kasidah of Haji Abdu el Yezdi.

In 1943 Professor John Anderson, Professor of Philosophy at Sydney University, was censured by both chambers of the New South Wales Parliament for having said this: "If religion, then, were to play a part in education as the development of understanding, it could only be as a subject on which various views could be considered by the child and grasped in terms of his own experience . . . . I should argue (1) that the morality natural to an educational system is the morality of education itself, of scholarship, of freedom of thought; (2) that the protecting of any morality from competition makes for moral weakness; and (3) that the clergymen who give instruction in schools are not experts in ethical science. **Teachers, then, would be well advised to keep the clergy out of the schools.**"

Clergymen, both Protestant and Catholic, always claim that good conduct depends on religion (supernaturalism). Does it?

According to the census of 1933, 21 per cent. of the people of New South Wales stated that they were Roman Catholics. Approximately two-thirds of the Catholic children are educated in schools conducted by the Catholic Church in N.S.W., receiving an intensive religious training from priests, brothers and nuns. Therefore, if religion conduces to good social behaviour Catholics should have a low rate of delinquency. Actually, they have the highest rate!

Each year the Government Statistician of N.S.W. publishes, in the Official Year Book of N.S.W., statistics showing the religions of prisoners in N.S.W. on June 30 of each year. Now read these revelatory statistics:—

Year ended June 30	Total prisoners	Catholic prisoners	Catholics %
1934	1515	540	35 per cent.
1935	1398	454	32 " "
1936	1330	464	34 " "
1937	1183	404	34 " "
1938	1176	422	35 " "
1939	1364	481	35 " "
1940	1357	487	35 " "
1941	1236	423	34 " "
1942	1497	471	31 " "
1943	1558	529	33 " "
1944	1739	614	35 " "

Delinquency amongst Catholic women is higher than the average male Catholic rate, there being 63 Catholic women incarcerated in 1943 out of a total of 139 women prisoners on June 30, or 45 per cent. The figures are not published with the intention of belittling Catholics, but with the object of proving that the claims of priest and parson are false. Protestants generally send their children to State schools, but what figures have been collated for Church schools conducted by them show that the rate of delinquency is higher than that of State school products. **In short, the Catholic one-fifth of New South Wales produces one-third of the delinquents.** Professor Anderson is **right! The clergy should be kept out of the schools.**

(Compiled by B. Calcutt and issued by the Queensland  
Rationalist Society).

If you are endowed with reasoning powers, the dictionary says you are rational—sane, intelligent. **That means you are a Rationalist.**

Why not, then, support Rationalism by joining a society, by contributing towards the cost of Rationalist propaganda, or by reading Rationalist papers?

Rationalism exposes humbug and hypocrisy in the churches and shows the way, the scientific way, to a useful and interesting life.

**Sunday Lectures are given at:—**

The Queensland Rationalist Society, Culpin Hall, Butler House, 432 Queen Street, Brisbane.

The Rationalist Association of New South Wales, Ingersoll Hall, 256 Crown Street (near Oxford Street Post Office), Sydney; and

The Rationalist Association of South Australia, 316 King William Street, Adelaide.

Rationalist literature and periodicals may be purchased at those addresses. The lectures are generally advertised in the daily newspapers on Saturdays.

**READ—**

"The Rationalist" (6d. a copy, 7/- a year post free), Box 738F, G.P.O., Melbourne.

"The New Zealand Rationalist" (6d. a copy, 7/- a year post free), Auckland, New Zealand.

"The Freethinker" (5d. a copy in Australia), 41 Gray's Inn Road, London, W.C.1.

"The Literary Guide and Rationalist Review" (5d. a copy in Australia), 5 and 6 Johnson's Court, Fleet Street, London.

"The Truthseeker," New York City, U.S.A.