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NEWMAN ON MIND AND MATERIALISM IN THE UNIVERSITY

Seeing warning signs in the 19th Century's advancing modernism and scientism, Newman paints a picture of a futuristic university based on materialist presuppositions. The brave new university has a curriculum and professors who present the human and natural worlds with no space for divine nor human minds. Naturalistic explanations are sought in all fields of study including the human disciplines. Theology and philosophy will be eliminated from the curriculum. The study of reasons as the motives for actions will be replaced by the study of material causes. All knowledge will be scientific knowledge.

I will give a sketch of our best universities that shows Newman's futuristic university has arrived. Physicalism and cognitive science are now dominant theories in philosophy of mind at these universities. The university will not give up its materialist commitments easily. In my paper I will show that Newman had identified these commitments and their implications for the curriculum in the last century and that we would do well to revisit his worries on these matters. I will give an analysis of the presupposition of causality and its misuse, in contemporary philosophical terms. But I will suggest that the actual counter to the contemporary dark age lies in the persistent presence of universities of the Church: that once again a community of faith and learning will harbor culture, knowledge, freedom, and science. Guidelines for such universities are given in Newman's *The Idea of a University*.