

March 1933

Guild Notes

Catholic Physicians' Guild

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Recommended Citation

Catholic Physicians' Guild (1933) "Guild Notes," *The Linacre Quarterly*: Vol. 1: No. 2, Article 4.
Available at: <http://epublications.marquette.edu/lnq/vol1/iss2/4>

GUILD NOTES

As new Guilds are formed, please report the title of the Guild, the names and addresses of the officers, and the activities of the Guild to the Editor. The pages of this journal are open to any reports the various Guilds wish to have published. Send them in and they will be taken care of, in due course.

BROOKLYN GUILD NOTES—Congratulations! Mrs. Rita C. McGoldrick has just received from Pope Pius XI the Gold Cross of the Order "Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice" in recognition of her distinguished services in behalf of Catholic Action in this country. The courtesy title of "Lady" accompanies this honor. Mrs. McGoldrick is the wife of Dr. Thomas A. McGoldrick, President of the Professional Guild of Kings and Queens Counties, Medical Director of St. Peter's Hospital and a member of the Executive Committee of the Catholic Physicians' Guild of Brooklyn. Mrs. McGoldrick is head of the Motion Picture Bureau of the International Federation of Catholic Alumnae. Fordham University conferred the degree of LL.D. upon Mrs. McGoldrick and our President, Franklin D. Roosevelt, at the Commencement Exercises of 1929.

Mrs. Thomas A. McGoldrick has set a goal toward which the wife of any Catholic physician may well aim for the advancement of Catholic ideals.

THE winter meeting was held at the Columbus Club, December 15, 1932, Dr. Matthew G. Golden presiding. Due to the unavoidable absence of Dr. Edwin Fiske, Dr. Thomas Brennan introduced the speaker of the evening, Mr. Michael Williams, Editor of *The Commonwealth*, whose topic was "The Catholic Church in the World Crisis." Following the address the discussion was opened by Dr. Ignatius Byrne and continued by Drs. O'Reilly, Mallon Coakley, McEveney, Ryan and Rendich. About seventy-five members were present and partook of a light collation which was served at the end of the meeting.

The spring meeting is to be held at Columbus K. of C. Clubhouse, late in March or early in April, date, subject and speaker to be announced later.

The annual retreat of the Catholic Physicians' Guild of Brooklyn will commence on Friday evening, May 5, 1933, at 7 P. M. at Mount Manresa, 239 Fingerboard Road, Ft. Wadsworth, Staten Island.

The Reverend William J. Duane, S.J., will again conduct the retreat this year. "Now perhaps more than ever there is need of spiritual encouragement for the strengthening of men who are liable to give

way to despondency as a result of the prolonged financial depression which has affected nearly everyone, rich and poor alike." Since the number of accommodations at Mount Manresa is limited to a band of seventy-five men, please make your reservation at the earliest possible date with Dr. William F. C. Steinbugler, 115 Ocean Avenue, Brooklyn, N. Y., as we expect this year to have a surplus of applicants.

MANHATTAN GUILD NOTES—The Catholic Physicians' Guild of Manhattan held a meeting on February 24th at the Catholic Club. The Rev. John J. Harnett, O.P., of St. Vincent Ferrer Church, the well-known lyric tenor who has given most successful music recitals at the Town Hall of New York and elsewhere for the benefit of church organizations, sang a number of selections.

Mr. Michael Williams, Editor of *The Commonweal*, gave an address on Catholic journalism. He brought out that for many years in Europe and the British possessions marked activity in Catholic lay journalism has been going on. He attributed the recent trouble in Spain and Mexico largely to the fact that no Catholic lay journals existed in these countries. Since 1922, as an outgrowth of Catholic activities during the war, the best minds in the Church have seen the necessity of lay journals of high calibre in this country and he dilated on the importance of these as a part of Catholic Action. Maintaining that the youth of this country were disappointed with the former leaders, he claimed that they were now anxious for instruction on the Catholic position on social and moral things and that Catholic lay journals and newspapers logically would be the liaison between them and the Church. In a vivid way he drew attention to the high type of literary writers that contribute to these journals abroad and how scarce they were here. This was due to the inferior types of Catholic publications we have had until quite recently. The importance of Catholic lay action was stressed, and now several excellent Catholic publications existed whose policy it was to bring out the writings of the best lay minds of the Church. He felt that the future of the Church in this country was much dependent upon the quality and kinds of its literature.

The President of the Guild spoke on the importance of Catholic Action and the necessity for a lively interest in the Guild activities. The Editor of THE LINACRE QUARTERLY reported that the first issue had occasioned a surprising degree and extent of attention, quite a few subscriptions had come in voluntarily, and that there was much reason to anticipate its success. He felt that all the members of the constituent

Guilds of the Federation and Catholic physicians in general would eventually be subscribers to the journal.

PHILADELPHIA GUILD NOTES—The Guild of St. Luke, St. Cosmos and St. Damian had a meeting on December 22, 1932, with a very fair attendance. An interesting lecture was given by the Rev. Charles R. Bruehl, Ph.D., "On Evolution." This was followed by an animated discussion, making it quite a lively meeting, after which a luncheon was served. The Guild is arranging for a meeting to be held at the end of February.

BRONX GUILD NOTES—The last regular meeting of the Bronx Catholic Physicians' Guild took place at Fordham University on Sunday, February 26, 1933.

Over thirty members were present. Mass was celebrated at 9 A. M. in the College Chapel, which was followed by breakfast in the College Refectory. The Rev. Fr. Cox, our spiritual moderator, offered up the mass.

Dr. Podvin, our president, after disposing of the executive session, introduced the Rev. Fr. Lawrence K. Patterson, S.J., who spoke on "The Church and World Peace." This was one of the most interesting topics ever delivered and was given very masterly. The Rev. Ignatius Cox, S.J., our spiritual moderator, was asked to speak and clarify the "moral view of Catholic physicians" on the so-called "safe period." This was very interesting and helped our physicians understand the real meaning together with the interpretation as given by our Church.

Dr. Cunniffe, one of our pioneer and outstanding men, opened the discussion of both speakers. He was followed by Drs. O'Connor and Kosik.

Our meeting was brought to a close after a very generous vote of thanks was offered to both speakers.

CHICAGO GUILD NOTES—The Cosmos and Damian Associates conducted a seminar at the John B. Murphy Hospital, on Sunday, January 29th, at 3:00 P. M. The Chairman of the occasion was Henry Schmitz, A.M., M.D., Head of the Department of Gynecology, Loyola University School of Medicine. Dr. Latz, member of the staffs of Loyola University School of Medicine and Alexian Brothers Hos-

pital, opened up the discussion on the question, "Can the Periods of Sterility and Fertility in Women be Determined?" The speaker drew largely on his book which he published recently, *The Rhythm of Sterility and Fertility in Women*. Basing his arguments mainly upon the research work done by the distinguished gynecologists, Dr. K. Ogino of Japan and Dr. Hermann Knaus of Austria, and, to a degree, upon his own observations, he showed that in the case of women who have a regular twenty-eight-day cycle of menstruation it is impossible for them to conceive on twenty-one of those days and that the days when conception is possible can be determined. He showed how the theories of Drs. Ogino and Knaus can be applied to women with longer or shorter cycles than twenty-eight days and with fluctuating cycles. The second speaker was Dr. A. G. Miller of Hobart, Ind., who presented statistics and charts showing the results of two years of experimentation with the theory in one hundred and thirty cases which he followed very closely and which fitted in accurately with the theories of Dr. Knaus and Dr. Ogino. Rev. Joseph Reiner, S.J., former dean of Loyola University, at Chicago, pointed out that if a married couple had an honorable motive and sufficient reason they may apply the theory and take advantage of the periods of sterility. He adduced for authorities writers in European theological magazines, particularly those of Holland, Belgium, Germany and Austria. Emphasizing that he was expressing a purely personal opinion, he declared that it was his conviction, in view of the European literature that he had read, that the rhythm of sterility and fertility as explained in Dr. Latz's book is correct. He called upon the doctors present to investigate the theory thoroughly. Rev. John Barrett, Superintendent of Hospitals for the Archdiocese of Chicago, recommended that all proceed slowly in this matter. In the discussion that followed, some of the doctors declared that they were not familiar enough with the theory to be able to talk about it intelligently; one urged that at least twelve menstrual cycles be observed before applying the theory in any individual case and the chairman tried to prove that the period of sterility was considerably shorter than explained by Drs. Latz and Miller. Dr. Miller, pointing to his own observations and to more recent discoveries, maintained that the periods of sterility and fertility, as outlined by him and Dr. Latz, were accurate.

[We congratulate the St. Luke's Guild of Rochester, N. Y., and welcome their affiliation with the Federation.]