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Notes and Comments

Catholic Physicians' Guild

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NOTES AND COMMENTS

Results of Abortions in Russia.—The Russian experiences with legalized abortions as reflected in the First All-Ukrainian Congress of Gynecologists and Obstetricians now has confirmation in medical literature in the reports of Verkh ratskiy and Anufrieff, both of these being made four years after the first report. It is now proven that legalized abortions have produced the following disastrous results: 13.5 per cent of adnexal complications in 1,242 artificial abortions; curettage of the uterus, a procedure fraught with serious consequences; cervical tears and ectropion the most frequent complications; in 1,815 abortions there were thirteen fatalities, a distinctly greater mortality than in normal labor; many cases after abortion returning in a few days with serious infections due to the scraping; many cases of new infections lighting up old infections left after former abortions; general sepsis four times as frequent after repeated abortions as after one abortion and adnexal inflammations twice as frequent; definite increase in gonorrheal infections; marked increase in uterine atrophy and hyperplasia; twenty per cent increase of parametritis and adnexitis; thirty-six per cent increase of necessary operations; five per cent increase of secondary sterility; increase of extra-uterine pregnancy; four times the increase of post-partum fever; five to six times increase of post-partum hemorrhage; increase in still-births; marked increase in psychic disturbances of depressions, hysteria, frigidity, dyspareunia and marital discord; chronic inflammations of the uterus and adnexa, as well as abortions without end, as a heritage over years of time; after studying 140,000 abortions a year constant increase of women on the road to invalidism; "abortariums," a menace to public health; and, worst of all, criminal abortion was far from being suppressed. Since the activities of the birth controllers will undoubtedly bring agitation for the legalization of abortions, we might just as well put the above harrowing record in print now.

Well Done, Louisiana.—The Louisiana legislature killed two bills dealing with asexualization. One bill proposed to provide for the sexual sterilization of certain socially inadequate inmates of state institutions. The other bill proposed to authorize all state hospitals to sterilize by vasectomy or salpingectomy any feeble-minded person of either sex,

who has been duly interdicted, provided that in the cases of minors the consent of the proper curators, guardians or parents is obtained in writing.

A defeated Louisiana bill proposed to prohibit the sale of contraceptives without a permit from the supervisor of public accounts, to be granted on the payment of twenty-five dollars annual fee. Such vendors as should be permitted to sell these articles were to be required to pay an excise tax of one dollar for each contraceptive sold and were to maintain records of all sales, listing the name and address of the vendees.

Costs of Medical Care.—It took fourteen years for this country to learn that the Eighteenth Amendment was not worth the while but it will not require that much time to come to the same conclusion on the majority report of the Committee on Medical Costs. The only fairness in it to the profession is found in the minority report, which has the basis of medical practice at least. The majority report represents a confiscation of the best there is in the noble profession of medicine. This publication joins with the leading newspapers and medical journals of this country who have expressed opposition to the scheme of socialization of medicine and hopes with them that the majority report will pass like the Wickersham report into history. If we agree with the Bible's statement of "our brother's keeper" why do some want to bind us first and destroy us afterward whilst all the time trying to make us like it? Surely there is nothing in the Christian faith that warrants or sanctions this.

About Ourselves.—The first issue of THE LINACRE QUARTERLY brought forward some interesting responses. A number of complimentary letters were received, not a few from afar. Our cause was good, the desire sufficient, and the first issue went out. Among the many, a few of the remarks were: "It's going to make a place for itself in Catholic magazines of no small moment." "High class, dignified, yet pointed, like a dueling sword." "Truth and fact sublimating inferiority complex in force and strength." The effect of these comments has strengthened our purpose to "carry on." We thank all who sent communications.

A Greeting from Father Wilfrid Parsons.—"Men now try to persuade themselves that they may lead a dual life, with a dual conscience, one for their private lives, and the other for their profession. Nor do

they feel that life suffers from any inconvenient stress and strain when the two consciences are at continual odds. This dual theory of life and conduct long ago established itself, unfortunately, in the economic and industrial world. To its general acceptance we can trace the fact that today, while the earth brings forth her fruits with inexhaustible liberality, men walk the streets in search of a chance to earn their bread, while their families starve in a tenement room, from which they hourly expect eviction. Once this disastrous theory gains general acceptance in the professions, society will suffer from a new source of decay. To the physician we entrust our confidence and our very lives, and in return we have the right to demand the service that can be given only by one who to knowledge and skill, adds irreproachable character. . . . In helping the physician to infuse practical Catholicism into his private and professional life, the Guild has something to offer which the doctor cannot obtain elsewhere."—*America*, February 11, 1933.

Always Obvious But Constantly Debated.—At the California Institute of Technology, Abbe Georges Le Maitre, the celebrated Belgian scientist and Professor of Relativity at the University of Louvain, stated:

"And there is no conflict between the Bible and scientific teachings. All problems in life can be solved either by religion or science, but not with both combined. One common mistake is to attempt scientific problems by religion and religious problems by science. Each must be solved in the field in which it arises."

How the Holy Father Regards Catholic Journalists.—Pope Pius XI, addressing a pilgrimage of Catholic Journalists, recently affirmed:

"You are my Voice. I do not say that you make my voice heard, but that you are really my voice itself; for few indeed would be the number of the children of our common Father who could learn my wishes and thoughts without the aid of the Catholic Press."

Following up the idea of Pope Pius in extolling the Catholic press, Alfred W. Hommel of Boston has done a fine thing. He established, under the auspices of the Catholic Truth Guild of Boston, a news stand at which is sold various Catholic magazines, newspapers, pamphlets,

etc. for Catholics and non-Catholics alike. This at least will do one thing: it will come immediately in contact with Catholics who should support their publications better.

Catholic Physicians of World to Convene.—An international congress of Catholic physicians, organized under the patronage of the Medical Society of St. Luke, will be held at Paris in 1934. This will be coincident with the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment in France of the St. Luke Society.

A Worthy Cause.—The Catholic Medical Mission Board at 8 and 10 West 17th Street, New York, N. Y., asks the co-operation of all our Catholic doctors to secure: first, instruments, equipment, and any useful medical supplies, for which hundreds of missions in primitive countries are pleading constantly; second, to help educate native Catholic boys and girls in mission lands to be doctors and nurses. Write to Rev. Edward F. Garesché, S.J., President of the Board, at the above address for further information.

1933 Meeting of the National Conference of Catholic Charities.—Under the patronage of Cardinal Hayes the 1933 meeting of the National Conference of Catholic Charities will be held in New York City October 1-5. As president of the National Conference, Monsignor Keegan, Secretary to His Eminence for Charities, has formulated a worthwhile program for the discussion of a definite course of action for Catholic Charities in the task of social and economic reconstruction. It is significant to note that the New York City meeting coincides with the centennial of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. The program will stress the participation of Catholic lay groups in various phases of charitable endeavor. Particularly engaging will be the program material arranged by the Committee on Health. The activities of this division will include section and special sessions for the consideration of problems encountered in mental and physical health projects under Catholic auspices. In an effort to promote interest in the Conference and to provide adequate facilities for the New York City meeting, a membership campaign is now in progress. A special appeal is being made to all Catholics among the professional groups.