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Along Highway and Byway

Catholic Physicians' Guild

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THE LINACRE QUARTERLY

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VOL. 3

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NO. 4

ALONG HIGHWAY AND BYWAY

A MAGNIFICENT RECORD

Report of the Retiring President of the Federation

SINCE our last regular meeting of the Federated Catholic Physicians' Guild held in 1933, marked progress has been made in the activities of the central body and individual chapters of this Federation. The movement has extended to dioceses in widely separated sections of our country.

"During the brief existence of the Federation, all of the already formed Guilds have become affiliated, and in addition, through the action of the Federation, Guilds have been formed and are actively functioning in Wichita, Kansas; San Francisco, California; Little Rock, Arkansas; Cleveland, Ohio; Belleville, Illinois; and Great Falls, Montana. Preliminary steps toward guild formation have been taken in Baltimore, Pittsburgh, San José, Newark, Providence, Omaha, Oklahoma City, Scranton, Washington and other localities.

"At the present time there are twelve chapters of the Federation with at least nine more in the process of formation. In addition, there are approximately thirty associate members in districts in which there are too few Catholic physicians to form a chapter.

"The chief means of guild extension were two—first, direct communication with all the diocesan heads and others throughout the country interested in the Catholic Physicians' Guild idea and forward-

ing to these, special pamphlets concerning guild formation; second, the publication and distribution of THE LINACRE QUARTERLY, the official organ of the Federated Catholic Physicians' Guild. On the mailing list were placed the names of all who were in any way interested in guild extension. The circulation of the LINACRE approximates three thousand at this time.

"These, the program of extension and the publication of the LINACRE, comprise the major activities of the Federation up to the present. Resistance was also brought to bear against attempted legislation not in accord with the principles for which the Federation stands. Letters were sent to the daily press and other publications when it was necessary to make known the attitude of the Catholic physicians.

"The activities of the various Guilds have become more numerous and varied. Meetings have been held throughout the year on subjects of medico-moral interest; health programs have been carried on in parochial schools; medical missions have been aided by supplies of medical samples and surgical equipment; affiliations have been made with groups of Catholic students in medical colleges, and arrangements are being made to aid the needy student in a financial way and in still another instance, plans have been completed to help educate a native medical student for work in a Catholic Medical Mission field. Of the spiritual functions, retreats, open and closed, corporate communions and masses for deceased members have been held. These functions indicate an active future for the various chapters of the Federation and further impresses one with the many reasons for the existence of at least one guild chapter in every diocese.

"In closing, your President wishes to state that again many thanks are due our Executive Secretary, Miss Madeline MacGregor, who has served so well and gratuitously during the existence of the Federation and also to Father E. Roberts Moore for making her services available. Your President also wishes to express his appreciation to the various officers and committees of the Federation for their aid and, in particular, to the members of the LINACRE QUARTERLY staff, Father Cox, Dr. Bassler and Dr. Golden.

(Signed) RICHARD RENDICH."

THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF CATHOLIC PHYSICIANS

The International Congress of Catholic Physicians, an announcement of which appeared in our March issue, took place at Brussels, Belgium, from the 29th of May to the 2nd of June, 1935. The whole last issue of the *St. Luke Medical*, organ of the Belgian Medical Society of St. Luke, is taken up with an account of the splendidly

successful First International Convention of Catholic Physicians' Guilds. A glance at the titles of some of the papers read will give an idea of the subjects covered:

"The Role of Physicians or Associations of Catholic Physicians in the Christian Reconstruction of Society," by Dr. Wibo, M.D., General President of the Belgian Medical Society of St. Luke, and President of the First International Congress of Catholic Physicians.

"The Conditions of a Christian Social Order and the Role of the Catholic Physician in Its Future," by Dr. J. Okinczye, M.D., of the Medical Faculty of the University of Paris.

"The University Preparation and the Christian Education of Young Physicians in View of Their Participation in the Christian Reconstruction of Society," by the Reverend Augustin Gemelli, O.F.M., M.D., Rector of the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart, Milan, Italy.

"The Intellectual Postulate of Medicine and of Catholic Medical Guilds," by Dr. R. De Guchteneere, M.D., Editor-in-Chief of the *St. Luke Medical*, author of "Judgment on Birth Control."

In a foreword, Dr. Goedseels, M.D., speaks of the Congress: "The International Congress of Catholic Physicians which was held at Brussels, marks an important step in the international movement of Catholic Medical Action. It opens a new era of understanding and collaboration between the Guilds of St. Luke or similar groups.

"For some time past, the physicians, who, in different countries, were interested in medical, moral, social and religious questions, were very desirous of a convention, which the Congress at Brussels brought to a realization. The Belgian Medical Guild of St. Luke has always been convinced that the activity of groups of Catholic physicians ought not to be confined strictly within its own frontiers, but that it ought, for its own development, be active in a truly Catholic movement.

"After having visited Rome, in 1930, to present, with a large group of its member, its filial homage to the Holy Father, the Belgian Guild arranged consistently, through visits or journeys, points of contact with groups of neighboring countries. The results of these meetings were particularly encouraging. Mutual instruction, reciprocal stimulation, and, above all, the formulation of strong and lasting friendships, the essential basis of a common and fruitful activity.

"These happy experiences suggested to the Belgian Society the idea of more extended conventions, and it decided, in October, 1931, to organize an International Congress of Catholic Physicians at Brussels in 1935, on the occasion of the International Exposition. This idea was most favorably received by all the societies that could be consulted and notably by the foreign delegates, who were present in

1934 at Paris at the celebration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the French Guild of St. Luke. Relying on this support and trustful in Providence, the organizing committee began the work, although the economic and political situation was none too favorable for the realization of the project.

"Despite all this, the Congress was a magnificent success. Before all else, it is proper to thank God Who has visibly blessed the initiative of the physicians of St. Luke. Moreover, it is proper to thank all the different national societies of Catholic physicians who gave to the organizing committee entire and most devoted support. It is to the brilliant committee members of France, of Holland, of Italy, and of Belgium; to the delegates representative of nations, which took active part in the Congress; it is to the women and the daughters of physicians who brought to the Convention a delicate atmosphere characterized by sweetness, and genial graciousness, that the happy success of the Brussels Congress is truly due.

"However, the end which was sought in the organization of the Brussels Congress will only be entirely attained, when from this beginning there arises an effective and continuous collaboration between the Catholic physicians of all nations. Everything happily promises that this will be the story of the future, and next year the Guild of St. Luke of Austria will continue the work already begun. The new movement allows us to look forward to the future of our movement with absolute confidence."

Is it too much to hope that the Federated Catholic Physicians' Guild will be represented next spring in Vienna?

1500 DELEGATES AT THE OMAHA CONVENTION OF THE CATHOLIC HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

Resolutions closing the doors of Catholic hospitals to operations for sterilization of "the so-called unfit," condemning "emphatically and unqualifiedly the use of the hospital centre for the diffusion of contraceptive knowledge," and approving the program of the American College of Surgeons for hospital standardization and the program of the American Medical Association with regard to registration of hospitals, were adopted at the final session of the 20th annual convention of the Catholic Hospital Association at Omaha, Nebraska.

More than 1500 delegates representing some 300 Catholic hospitals in the United States and Canada attended the five-day convention. All officers of the Association were re-elected. They are: Rev. Alphonse M. Schwitalla, S.J., of St. Louis, President; Rt. Rev. Maurice F. Griffin, of Cleveland, Vice-President; Sister Helen Jarrell, of St. Bernard's Hospital, Chicago, Secretary, and Sister M. Irene, of St.

Mary's Hospital, St. Louis, Treasurer. One change was made on the board of directors, Sister Agnes Cecilia, of St. John's Hospital, Helena, Mont., being named in place of Sister Marie, of Huber Memorial Hospital, Pana, Ill.

It will be remembered that in our June issue we wrote: "*The writer wonders how long Catholic Hospitals will continue to purchase hospital supplies from firms which are trying to cash in on the present race-suicide movement.*" The Editors were astonished at the enthusiasm with which their suggestion was met both within the Catholic medical profession and within the Catholic Hospital Association. The Editors have since learned that the athletic association of a large Catholic university purchases considerable supplies from a wholesale drug firm, notorious for its sale of contraceptives. THE LINACRE QUARTERLY is seriously considering the publication of a list of the larger firms which deal in contraceptives. We may now begin to look for results.

WHY NOT CATHOLIC DOCTORS?

According to a partial survey, made this summer by a member of a Catholic Physicians' Guild, it is said that the Catholic physician in his practice has only two per cent Hebrew patients, while the Jewish physician's practice is forty per cent Christian. In connection with this we wish to print here a letter that appeared recently in the Catholic review, *America*:

To the Editor of AMERICA:

I was very much interested in the letter you received from F. R., M.D., Penn, in your issue of June 1, regarding birth control. He is perfectly right about birth control spreading among the middle and lower classes. This can be corrected largely, I think, by the priests in their respective parishes if they would advise their parishioners to employ Catholic doctors only. Being a registered nurse, I have first-hand information on this subject, and have frequently advised young Catholic mothers to employ Catholic physicians. This is not an easy thing for a nurse to do as it is considered a breach of medical ethics to criticize the physician on whose case she happens to be. It would be, however, easy for a priest, I think, to do this, as it could be considered a part of Catholic Action. And it would be much more effective. It is an everyday occurrence for a non-Catholic doctor to suggest to his patient—Catholic or non-Catholic—that she allow him to "fix her up" so that she will not have more children. The usual argument used is that child-bearing is so hard on the mother of today; it "ties her down too much." Also the depression is another argument used. I know that some young Catholic mothers are easily influenced by these viewpoints.

I could write a lot more than 500 words on this subject, but the people who need advice most probably do not read AMERICA. Therefore, I think the priests can do more by addressing their people directly on Sundays, perhaps devoting ten or fifteen minutes of the time which they employ in delivering the very beautiful sermons which may or may not be as necessary as plain talks to plain people, which eventually would have a direct bearing on their spiritual life. Finally, I hope with F. R., M.D., that a great many priests will read his letter.

New York.

M. B., R.N.

HEALTH EXAMINATION OF CATHOLIC PAROCHIAL SCHOOL CHILDREN

In a letter to the Editor, Dr. William P. Brown, M.D., of the New York State Education Department, writes: "We tackle another year's activities. I find my new director very desirous that I take feasible steps to foster improvements in Catholic schools. We are urging standards of a ten to fifteen minute medical examination, with the Doctor conferring with the Principal as to the hygiene of the daily schedule, the sanitary equipment, the ventilation, the temperature, the adjustments whereby individual pupils are associated with the companions they like best, the good mental hygiene of discipline. The total per pupil is nearly thirty minutes per year."

The LINACRE has already called attention to what a fruitful field in Catholic action this medical examination of Catholic parochial school children offers to a Catholic Physicians' Guild. Monsignor M. J. Gruenewald writes that the Belleville, Illinois, Guild is taking up this work with great enthusiasm. A General Diocesan Committee is now engaged in working out the details of this program for the health survey of the children in parochial schools in the diocese. Dr. Henry J. Barrow, of the Bronx Guild, is planning to send a letter to all the Catholic schools in the Bronx, offering the services of the members of the Guild to these schools. Surely it is a great work of zeal to provide for the health of the rising Catholic generation. It is likewise a corporal work of mercy, a work, therefore, that comes within the capacity and the functions of Catholic physicians organized for Catholic action.

THE INTERNATIONAL HOSPITAL CONGRESS BANS STERILIZATION

The practice of sterilization received a stunning blow, when, on May 27, 1935, the International Hospital Congress meeting in Rome decided to exclude a discussion of this topic from the program of its next meeting to be held in Paris. A delegate to the Rome Congress had suggested that the sterilization ideas now prevalent in Germany be adopted by the whole world. The Dutch doctors asked that the subject of sterilization be excluded from the forthcoming Paris Congress and sterilization was dropped from the agenda of the forthcoming meeting.