

July 1937

Guild Reports

Catholic Physicians' Guild

Follow this and additional works at: <http://epublications.marquette.edu/lnq>

Recommended Citation

Catholic Physicians' Guild (1937) "Guild Reports," *The Linacre Quarterly*: Vol. 5 : No. 3 , Article 5.
Available at: <http://epublications.marquette.edu/lnq/vol5/iss3/5>

GUILD REPORTS

MANHATTAN GUILD—At the recent Spring meeting, held Thursday, May 27, 1937, in the auditorium of St. Vincent's Hospital, Dr. Edward L. Keyes presented a most interesting summary of his impressions and opinions concerning the major ethical problems with which the young practitioner, as well as his senior, is frequently faced. He gave in a concise manner his own reactions to the problems, his methods of approach and solution, as well as his reasons. The paper led to considerable comment and discussion concerning its historical and literary nature, as well as the valuation of the problems themselves.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing term: President, George B. Bader, M.D.; Vice-President, Thomas E. Waldie, M.D.; Secretary, James H. Kidder, M.D.; Treasurer, Alexander Schmitt, M.D.

BRONX GUILD—On May 13th, the Guild held a benefit for its welfare work. Hilaire Belloc, the English historian, delivered a lecture in the Fordham University auditorium. The University Glee Club rendered selections. This was followed by a buffet supper and dancing in Keating Hall.

On Sunday, June 6th, the Guild held its Spring meeting at Fordham University, Dr. H. J. Barrow, President, being in the Chair. This was preceded by a Mass and Communion breakfast. The Moderator, Rev. Ignatius W. Cox, S.J., gave an interesting talk on the Science of Ethics.

The members were urged to attend the election of the Bronx County Medical Society in an endeavor to retain in office men opposed to Communistic ideas. The Guild was congratulated on the activities of its members, it being represented by Clarence O'Connor, M.D., LL.D., President; Edward Flood, M.D., First Vice-President; George Miliani, M.D., Second Vice-President; and Edward Podvin, M.D., Executive Secretary.

A three-day Retreat will be held in

the early Fall. Sermons and instructions will be given in the afternoons and evenings, so that the doctors may also be free to look after their patients.

Dr. Thomas Brennan and Dr. Hamilton J. Hammill have been appointed Bronx members of the committee of the United New York City Guilds which will hold a Banquet and Dinner Dance in the Fall.

BOSTON GUILD—The Guild of Saint Luke held its winter meeting on January 25, 1937, at the Boston Medical Library. The guest speaker on this occasion was Dr. John E. Donley, Jr., of Providence, R. I. Dr. Donley is President of the Rhode Island Medical Society and a leading psychiatrist of that state. He chose as his subject "St. Augustine," with particular emphasis on his philosophy as a basis of most of our modern psychiatry. This address was exceptionally fine and was considered by the members the most scholarly treatise on this subject we had been privileged to hear. The manuscript will be forwarded to LINACRE for future publication. The discussion of this paper was led by Fr. Otis F. Kelly, M.D., and Drs. Fremont-Smith, Flynn and Duffy and was brilliant and interesting, as these men are all established in the field of psychiatry and members of our Guild.

At this meeting was inaugurated an extra-curriculum activity, "A Brief Course in Philosophy," which has proved to be a very interesting and profitable experiment. The course was made possible through the co-operation of the Presidents of Boston and Weston Colleges, who very generously assigned members of their faculties to lecture and also provided us with a meeting room in downtown Boston for these conferences. We hope, in the Fall, to enlarge the scope of these lectures and to invite some of our other professional brothers to enjoy these educational and intellectual treats. This meeting saw us making another departure from our past, namely,

the place of our meeting. We are now well recognized as an active force in the medical circles of the State Society and have been extended the use of the rooms for our meetings. This is a very forward step for the Guild and promises much for the future.

The Spring meeting of the Guild of Saint Luke was held on Monday, May 17, 1937, at the Boston Medical Library. As our guest on that evening we had Mr. Richard Reed of Augusta, Georgia. Mr. Reed is Editor of *The Bulletin*, the official organ of the Catholic Laymen's Association of Georgia, and the only Catholic newspaper in the South Atlantic States. He is and has been a true crusader for Catholic Action in that territory and in partial recognition of his work and success he was awarded the Laetare Medal by Notre Dame University in 1936. The subject of his talk to us was "Mitigating Religious Prejudice—A Georgia Example." Mr. Reed is a very modest man and tried very hard to disclaim any credit personally for the remarkable work accomplished but after listening to his story and observing the brilliance, tact, and personality of the man and realizing the force and energy necessary to do this job, it was the unanimous opinion of the members and guests that he was the real power of the movement and the honors and praise given were justly and entirely his.

At this meeting we were fortunate to have as our guests two other holders of this coveted Laetare Medal, both from Boston, Dr. Charles Maginis and Professor Ford of Harvard University. Both of these men made brief remarks and it surely was a wonderful meeting for the Guild.

BELLEVILLE GUILD—At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Catholic Physicians' Guild, held in the office of its diocesan moderator, Mgr. M. J. Gruenewald, Chancellor of the Diocese at St. Elizabeth Hospital, Belleville, this group expressed the opposition of the Guild in the Belleville Diocese in regard to the resolution favoring birth

control passed by the annual convention of the American Medical Association held in Atlantic City, N. J., earlier this month.

The Executive Committee of the Guild is made up of the following: Dr. B. H. Portuondo, K.S.G., Honorary President; Dr. E. A. Everett, O'Fallon, President; Dr. J. J. Kane, East St. Louis, Vice-President; Dr. C. H. Baumann, Belleville, Secretary; Dr. J. J. Donahue, Belleville, Treasurer; Dr. J. E. Bellinger, Collinsville, Dr. Henry Reis, Belleville and Dr. F. H. Ketterer, Breese, Executive Committee.

The text of the resolution as passed is as follows:

"Whereas the American Medical Association, in its convention at Atlantic City, N. J., departed from its sane traditional stand opposing birth control, and endorsed this pernicious practice, and

"Whereas the Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds, which held a meeting simultaneously with the American Medical Association at Atlantic City, protests the adherence of this Association to a pagan philosophy which in reality tends to make the medical practitioner the grave-digger of the nation and by abortion and euthanasia its social executioner;

"Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Belleville Diocesan Branch of the Catholic Physicians' Guild, by its Executive Committee assembled in meeting at Belleville this 24th day of June, A.D. 1937, hereby wishes to go on record as concurring in the attitude of the Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds, condemning the action of the American Medical Association in endorsing birth control, and

"Be it further resolved that the Catholic Physicians' Guild of the Diocese of Belleville through this resolution emphasize the fact that birth control, or artificial contraception to be more exact, is a 'perversion of the moral right order of things, productive of mutual distrust on the part of the spouses using it, and its use even for medical reasons is a potential, if not an actual weapon for the un-

dermining of the virtues upon which Christian civilization is based.' Even from the standpoint of physical health, contraception, which is a product of our pagan, materialistic and selfish philosophies of life, is a common and fruitful cause of disease.

"Be it further resolved that the foregoing resolution of the Catholic Physicians' Guild of the Diocese of Belleville be given the widest possible publicity in the secular and religious press.

"CATHOLIC PHYSICIANS' GUILD OF THE
DIOCESE OF BELLEVILLE,

"E. A. EVERETT, M.D.,

President.

"CHARLES H. BAUMANN, M.D.,
Secretary."

CLEVELAND GUILD—In view of the recent legislation by the A. M. A. in approving birth control, it is now necessary for the Catholic Physicians' Guilds to take concerted action to counteract this detestable situation. One way of accomplishing this would be to have a National Convention and thereby have all the chapters represented and act in unison. One method to show disapproval would be to request all Catholic physicians to drop their membership in the A. M. A. The Cleveland chapter will co-operate wholeheartedly with any movement that may be undertaken.

NEW ORLEANS GUILD—At the meeting of March 10th, the membership

voted to communicate with the officers of the National Body to secure their endorsement to hold a "Get-Acquainted Meeting" at Atlantic City during the A. M. A. Convention. The idea was to permit Guild members who attended the Convention to have an opportunity to form contacts and to discuss matters of interest to Catholic physicians from all sections of the country.

At the June 9th meeting, the feature was a debate on the subject of "Euthanasia," the participants being Rev. Henry Bezou and Rev. Gerald Frey. A general discussion followed, many of the Guild members participating. At this same meeting, the membership took cognizance of the action of the House of Delegates of the A. M. A. on "Birth Control" and voted to send the following night letter to Dr. P. B. Salatich at Atlantic City, who acted as Chairman of the local group:

NIGHT LETTER: "Dr. P. B. Salatich, New Belmont Hotel, Atlantic City, N. J. Today's local newspapers carried story of unanimous adoption by House of Delegates of A. M. A. endorsing Birth Control. Contact Seeman for verification and Doctor Dillon to register local Guild's vigorous protest by unanimous vote at meeting tonight. (Signed) James T. Nix, President, Catholic Physicians' Guild of New Orleans."

Varicose Veins

Apparently the incidence of varicose veins is definitely increasing. Whether this is due to changing living conditions, or to definite changes within man's organism, would be difficult to say.

The new injection treatments, which obliterate the involved surface vessels, have been a distinct boon to both patient and physician and are extremely successful in a great majority of cases.

However, in some cases injection may need to be postponed for a time and palliative treatment instituted instead. In other cases, where injections are done, there is a good deal of pain and inflammation at and around the site of the injection. In both instances Antiphlogistine dressings are of great value. Used as hot as can be tolerated, and extending over and well beyond the site of the lesion, the results are frequently immediate and very striking.