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Catholic Physicians' Guild

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# THE LINACRE QUARTERLY

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## THE SELECTION OF THE TERM "THE LINACRE QUARTERLY"

THE selection of this term for our journal deserves some explanation to those who are not students of historic medicine. Linacre founded the Royal College of Physicians and through it regulated the practice of medicine. At the time there had been a great increase of irregular practitioners and of violation of ethics among them. The constitution of the College, drawn up by Linacre, still in force, is a standing monument to his far-seeing judgment. It represents the principles that constitute the working basis of our movement for the organization of Catholic Physicians' Guilds. He himself made a large fortune in the practice of medicine and was Royal Physician to Henry VIII in his younger days, and was an intimate friend of Sir Thomas More and Erasmus. He gave his fortune to the foundation of Chairs in Greek medicine at both Oxford and Cambridge. Greatly respected by his contemporaries, his English biographer says of him that he seems to have had no enemies, and he was greatly admired by Sir William Osler and S. Weir Mitchell of our day. When he was about sixty years of age, he became a priest, devoting the rest of his life to the care of souls as well as bodies. In all history he is the most outstanding exemplar of Catholic physician we have had. The name was suggested by Dr. James J. Walsh and after consideration by the officers of the Federation it was agreed to christen this journal "The Linacre Quarterly." The proper pronunciation of the name is as if it were spelled "Linn-eh-ker," with the accent on the first syllable.