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Along Highway and Byway

Catholic Physicians' Guild

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against it by the science of medicine, which was able to introduce a regime of correct hygiene and sanitation, with the aid of an aroused public opinion.

So, also, an aroused, enlightened public opinion is a necessary motive force for the application in the education of the young of known psychological principles, which can prevent the grave danger of much of this immense quantity of human wreckage resulting from maladjustment to life.

A nation is civilized in proportion to the degree that it applies basic knowledge to the solution of the problem of its existence. The increasing complexity of human affairs demands more and more the application of such knowledge as a condition of survival. In many fields urgent problems press for solution, but in no field is there a greater need than in that which trains the minds of young people to cope sensibly and basically with the problems of life; and in no field will the effort expended yield, in the long run, greater dividends in material saving and in human happiness.

ALONG HIGHWAY AND BYWAY

THE LINACRE ADVANCES. Each successive issue of THE LINACRE has excited increasing interest. The article on eugenics by Dr. Alexander Fraser, in the December issue, was sent out to all the Catholic papers by the N. C. W. C. News Service. Father Wilfred Parsons, S.J., Editor of *America*, in his issue of February 10, 1934, writing under the caption "Sterilization is Criminal Folly," says, "Dr. Fraser completely demolishes its pretensions, basing his demonstration entirely on the known laws of Biology."

DEATH OF DR. JOHN J. O'REILLY. The Catholic Physicians' Guilds suffered a grievous loss in the death of the well-known Brooklyn physician. Commenting on his departure, Mr. Patrick Scanlan, Managing Editor of the *Brooklyn Tablet*, says in his column, "Catholic Action loses a stalwart champion in Dr. O'Reilly. He was a credit to the Great Physician who was born, lived and died in the service of mankind."

GUILDS SPREADING. Under the leadership of Mr. Arthur T. O'Leary, a New York lawyer, there is being formed a Catholic Physicians' Guild for Sullivan and Rockland Counties, New York. Miss Dorothy Willmann, formerly attached to medical missions and now with the Queen's Work, St. Louis, Missouri, is engaged in forming a Physicians' Guild for that city. If every diocese in the country

understood the importance of the work being done by the guilds for Christ there would soon be a network of guilds throughout the country, an impregnable defense against the progressive paganization invading all branches of society.

INTERESTING GUILD MEETINGS. The winter meeting of the Manhattan Guild was held at Misericordia Hospital, 531 East 86th Street, on February 20, 1934. "Evolution of the Catholic Church" was the subject of the paper read by Father Joseph Asmuth, S.J., Professor of Biology at Fordham University and a Doctor in Biology from the University of Berlin. The Bronx Guild held a communion breakfast on Sunday, February 25, 1934. "The Baby Science of Seismology" was the subject of a paper read by Father J. Joseph Lynch, S.J., Professor of Physics at Fordham University and director of its seismological station. An article by Father Lynch on the same subject is shortly to appear in the *Scientific American*.

REAL EUGENICS. Three hundred of the six hundred boys in the Illinois State Reformatory were from Cook County, Illinois, according to Augustine Bomholt, writing in *The Fortnightly Review* for February, 1934. All this in spite of Boy Scouts, boys' clubs, big brother organizations, supervised playgrounds and public boxing bouts. Development of body is not improvement of soul. "The soul of all reform is the reform of the soul." This is the ultimate answer to all eugenic reforms which leave out religion. Man cannot be improved as *man* by mere improvement of body. Religion is the best program for eugenics and the very conditions which have led to an emphasis on eugenics and sterilization are the products of a world which has thrown religion overboard.

THE ONANISTS OUTWITTED. With all their preparation and expenditure the onanists seem to have made little progress in promotion of the new Federal Birth-control bills. In the debate in the New York papers they were never more convincingly answered. Gretta Palmer of the *World-Telegram*, reporting the Washington, D. C., Convention, should be awarded the prize for a classic vacuity. She wrote that the doctors at the convention argued pro and con on the entire subject and on all its phases and could come to no agreement. She concluded, however, the bill is a *good one* and *should pass*. Here are two interesting items from the *New Republic*, February 7, 1934. Mr. George Stubbs writes a letter concerning an article in a previous issue by Miss Elizabeth H. Garrett entitled "Birth Control's Business' Baby." The lady had said of the pioneer contraceptive firms, "They are non-commercial in character." To which Mr. Stubbs replies, "I am afraid

that she here permits her natural sympathy with the older babies to color her judgment. Certainly, I had a difficult enough time explaining to doctors the reason for the exorbitant price of products that cost only a few cents." Mr. Stubbs was with the very first pioneer firm dealing in contraceptives. In the same issue Miss Garrett reviews the book *Birth Control in Practice* by Marie E. Kopp, Ph.D. "The statistics," she says, "dealing with the protection afforded by these methods will be of prime interest to many readers . . . but this reviewer feels that the significance of this figure is seriously to be questioned."

Clinical Medicine and Surgery, in its issue for February, 1934, has a picture of Dr. Norman Haire, the well-known British propagandist for Onanism. He attended the recent birth-control meeting at Washington. He it was, according to the *Medical Times*, who at the Seventh International Meeting of Birth-Control defended a certain mechanical contraceptive device from the charge that it would be inductive of cancer by the naive remarks that any signs of incipient cancer would easily be discovered in the periodic examination. The writer of this article on Norman Haire closes with this remark, "The bill repealing our archaic laws relating to the dissemination of contraceptive information may come up for action soon. Write to your Congressmen and Senators urging their support of this measure." Who told the writer that these laws were archaic? The laws are not archaic which are based on a profound knowledge of the moral, physiological, psychological and sociological harm arising from the use of contraceptives. The writer evidently belongs to that group of shallow thinkers who without profound thought would seize on some so-called panacea, unconcerned with its moral and universal implications.

With deep sorrow, the management of the LINACRE QUARTERLY have learned of the passing of Mr. E. Mead Johnson, President of the Mead Johnson Co., on March 20, 1934. The highly ethical standards established both in their products and their method of presenting them to the medical profession were a direct reflection of the soul of their great President. May the force of his splendid example be carried on.

BOOK REVIEW

Ethics of Ectopic Operations. T. Lincoln Bouscaren, S.J., S.T.D., Mag. Agg., Professor of Canon Law, St. Mary-of-the-Lake Seminary, Mundelein, Illinois. Loyola University Press, Chicago, Illinois. 1933. vii-xv. 1-186.

If the purpose of the reviewer should be "to give the book," we forthwith state that this volume is a lucid exposition and logical proof of the thesis that:—