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## Guild Notes

Catholic Physicians' Guild

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a name; that medicine is not organized if it cannot clean its own house as it knows this must be done; that the American Medical Association, the American College of Surgeons, the American College of Physicians, etc., etc., are welcome visitors to the hospitals of the land provided they do not interfere with the commercial policy of these hospitals. The individual doctors or small groups of doctors are powerless to effect an ultimately satisfactory solution to this problem. But they can and must discover by practical methods how organized medicine can organize to weed out the unfit from its ranks. They must organize to gain the necessary sanction to protect patients from unscrupulous doctors and physicians and surgeons and hospitals. They must organize to arrange for the adequate treatment of the great middle class for reasonable fees. And finally they must organize to keep out meddlers, with which this country has been cursed from its earliest days. Call them organized minorities, if you will, but the significant fact is that they *are* organized. And in the organizations which are agitating the cause of socialized medicine there are many business people, adroit, far-seeing, planning long range plans for the future. The entire threat of socialized or state medicine is made possible by a sense of false security in hospital directors and in doctors themselves. If socialized medicine should ever become a reality, doctors must blame themselves if they are forced to view the ruins of a great edifice with the mumbled explanation: We were not prepared.

<sup>1</sup> *American Medical Association Bulletin*, October, 1934, p. 136, ff.

<sup>2</sup> *The Family Doctor and the Changing Order*, Walter L. Bierring, *Journ. Am. Med. Ass'n.*, June 16, 1934, p. 1997, ff.

## GUILD NOTES

### AN ANCIENT MEDICAL GUILD

The organization in recent years of Catholic Medical Guilds in England, Ireland, and our own country, has created interest in similar institutions of former times. The first issue for 1935 of the *Catholic Medical Guardian*, London, in keeping with its tendency, presents to its readers what is known of the ancient Medical Confraternity of San Pantaleon of Granada, in Spain, based to an extent on information contained in *Philos*, the organ of the Federation of Spanish Medical Guilds.

We know that in 1488, the Guild of SS. Cosmas and Damian of the ancient city of Zaragoza (Saragossa) received from Ferdinand, the Catholic, a charter which allowed its members the altogether exceptional privilege—at that time—of dissecting the human body. This was half a century before the period of Vesalius and when even the famous University of Salamanca was allowed no such favor.

But then there were other guilds of a similar type in Spain, and it is not unlikely that amongst them was the *Cofradia de San Pantaleon* of Granada which has recently joined the Federation of Spanish Medical Guilds.

In the Roman Martyrology we read that "At Nicomedia, the passion of St.

Pantaleon, a physician, who for the faith of Christ was taken by the Emperor Maximilian and tortured by the punishment of the rack and burning with torches; but amidst these things he was refreshed by the Lord appearing to him. . . . At last he ended his martyrdom by sword-stroke." To our knowledge, the medical guild of Granada is the sole fraternity with St. Pantaleon for patron to the exclusion of St. Luke, St. Cosmas and St. Damian, and we know also that it was flourishing in the eighteenth century, and in the nineteenth until the Napoleonic invasion.

Owing to the political disturbances of the nineteenth century the guilds' activities almost entirely ceased; but in 1890 Juan Creus y Manso, the eminent Madrid surgeon, who had retired to end his days at Granada, where his influence was commanding, succeeded in inducing the profession to revive it, and now it flourishes and seems destined to play a noble part in the movement for Catholic Action.

—C. V. SERVICE.

MANHATTAN GUILD, New York City—For its Spring meeting to be held at the New York Foundling Hospital, 68th Street, between 3rd and Lexington Avenues, on March 13th, at 9:00 P. M., the Manhattan Guild announces the presentation of a film: "Physiology of Fertility of the Human Female." This film has been made by C. W. Anderson of Denver, Colorado and will be presented through the courtesy of Mead Johnson & Company. This film illustrates the rhythm theory.

BRONX GUILD, New York City—In early December a bridge party was held under the auspices of the Ladies' Auxiliary of the Bronx Physicians' Guild. The affair was held at the Arrowhead Inn, Riverdale, and it attracted the followers of Culbertson in such numbers that the large hall was overflowing. Valuable prizes were offered to the winners at each table. Light refreshments were served. A tidy sum was realized to help carry on the work of the Guild.

The Bronx Guild is well represented in the activities of the Bronx County Society. Our distinguished Vice-President, Dr. C. J. O'Connor has been elected Vice-President of the County Society; Dr. Edward J. Podvin is a past President and is now the Executive Secretary of the county organization. Doctors Flood and McGrath are on the Board of Censors. It has been our policy to encourage our members to take more active interest in the affairs of their County Society.

The Bronx Physicians' Guild announces with profound regret the death of its esteemed Treasurer, the late Dr. Anthony Giordano. Dr. Giordano was one of the charter members of our organization, and always took an active interest in its work. He was a member of the Executive Committee during the past two years and at the November meeting was elected Treasurer. Dr. Giordano was graduated from Fordham University Medical School in 1920. He completed his internship at St. Joseph's Hospital, Yonkers, N. Y., and then studied for a year in Europe, specializing in diseases of the Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat. He opened offices in the Bronx and in Yonkers and became a member of the staff of the Manhattan Eye and Ear Hospital and St. Joseph's Hospital, Yonkers, N. Y. At the time of his death he was in charge of ear, nose and throat work at the latter hospital. He was a member of the F. A. C. S. and the Academy of Otolaryngology. The Bronx Guild extends to the family of the deceased its deepest sympathy in their bereavement.

BROOKLYN GUILD—Interest is now being centered on the annual retreat, which will be held at Mount Manresa, Fort Wadsworth, N. Y., May 3rd to 5th. No effort is being spared to make this the largest of the retreats up to the present

time. A cordial invitation is extended to all physicians to join the band. Reservations may be made with Frank Mallon, M.D., 1135 Park Place, Brooklyn, N. Y. It is suggested that this be done at an early date, as a capacity crowd is expected. On Sunday, March 10th, a representative of the Guild addressed the Saint Vincent de Paul Society on the occasion of their regular quarterly meeting. The purpose of the talk was to attempt to bring about a closer cooperation between the two societies so that the noble work they are engaged in may be further enhanced. The annual spring meeting will be held the latter part of April. The topic to be discussed and the exact time and place where it will be held has not as yet been decided upon.

**BOSTON GUILD**—A regular meeting of the Guild of St. Luke was held January 28th, 1935 at the University Club, Boston. The guest speaker at this meeting was Dr. James J. Walsh of New York City, who spoke on Medieval Medicine and Surgery. A large audience enjoyed this most interesting and instructive lecture. Dr. Walsh, in his own inimitable manner, made this subject very pleasant and all who were privileged to hear him were impressed with the amount of historical data presented which compared so closely with our present methods of practice. Judging from the comments of the members and guests present Dr. Walsh will soon again be invited to address us.



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