

March 1936

## Guild Notes

Catholic Physicians' Guild

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Spiritism—Insanity—Hysteria.  
Evolution—Spontaneous Generation—Living Cells in Vitro.  
Death—Dissolution.  
Sex Information—Youth, Single, Married.  
Continnence—Virginity—Chastity.  
Sexual Malpractices and Perversions.  
Marriage Obligations—Annulment of Marriage.  
Eugenics—Disease Heredity—Sterilization and Annihilation.  
Prevenception—Safe Period—Effects.  
Contraception—Birth Control—Effects.  
The Catholic Family and their Doctor.  
The Non-Catholic Doctor and his Moral Code.  
The Catholic Maternity Case.  
Ectopic Gestation.  
Forbidden Operations and Methods.  
Unjustifiable Operations.  
Drug Administration—Narcotics—Delerifacients.  
Professional Secrets—Crime Detection.  
Experimentation on Humans.  
Euthanasia—“Mercy Killing”—Ante-mortem Sedation.  
Our Diminished Birth Rate—Retarded Growth of Population.  
The Catholic Physician as a Good Neighbor.  
The Catholic Physician and the Parochial School.  
The Propaganda for “Medical Abortion” Laws.

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## GUILD NOTES

BROOKLYN GUILD—The Catholic Physicians' Guild of the Diocese of Brooklyn has continued its activities under the leadership of Dr. Thomas M. Brennan, who was elected President of the Guild at the May, 1935, Manresa Retreat.

In October last the Guild was fortunate in securing as a guest speaker, Dr. Harry Blaber, one of our esteemed young members, who has seen five years of the most active general medical and surgical services in the heart of China, to which he was assigned as a medical missionary by Maryknoll. Dr. Blaber thrilled the lay and medical audience who attended his talk. By the time this notice goes to press Dr. Blaber will probably be back at his permanent address, which is Toi Shan, care of Catholic Missions, South China.

A number of committee meetings were held and arrangements made for a Mass of Requiem which was celebrated in November of last year by his excellency the Right Reverend Thomas E. Molloy, D.D., Bishop of Brooklyn, for the deceased Catholic physicians of the Diocese. At the conclusion of the Mass the Bishop spoke

briefly, lauding the work of the Guild, complimenting the Reverend Chaplain (Rev. Paul Faustmann) and urging the members and officers to greater zeal so that the scope and purposes of the Guild might be broadened. A breakfast was then served by the Sisters of Saint Dominic of Saint Catherine's Hospital, Brooklyn, where the Mass had been celebrated.

It has been truly said that the success of the Guild may be directly measured by the success of its annual Retreat. It is to be hoped that every member will try to attend the annual Retreat which will be held this year, May 1, 2, and 3, at Mount Manresa, Staten Island. Our Retreat Master, the Reverend William J. Duane, S.J., will be glad to see new faces as well as old ones for all or part of the Retreat exercises. Why not mark the dates in your diary now? Communications in reference to the Guild may be addressed to the Secretary, Frank E. Mallon, M.D., 1135 Park Place, Brooklyn.

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MANHATTAN GUILD—The members of the Catholic Physicians' Guild of Manhattan on the occasion of their spring meeting, at the Centre, March 12, 1936, were privileged to listen to a very learned and instructive discourse on "Education and Sex" by the Reverend Dr. John Hartigan. In his presentation, Father Hartigan emphasized the faulty trends of so-called modern education in the problem of sex, mere information and knowledge being substituted for fundamental character-training and strengthening of the will.

At the outset, Father Hartigan called to our attention the material and spiritual components of man, indicating that he was specifically differentiated from the lower orders of creation by virtue of his reason and free will, which, together, constituted the norm governing man's moral responsibility. His specific problem was to discipline his life and to identify himself as a true Christian, a product of true Christian education, the real purpose of which was to form members for the mystical body of Christ. Above everything else, he was to be Catholic in culture, as well as Catholic in creed.

Sex education, therefore, was to be based on education in "laws of the will," and the best method of instruction, self-conquest in small matters before the age of puberty. The sex behavior of youth, said Father Hartigan, is to be considered the result of education as a whole, and, therefore, whatever sexual laxity and discontent exists in the world today is a sad commentary on the weakness of our educational system.

The Guild was next addressed by the Reverend Father Summers, S.J., Professor of Psychology at the Fordham Graduate School, who complimented and thanked Father Hartigan for his most inspiring and entertaining talk. He stated that the psychology which was permeating all our modern vocational guidance and youth movements, as well as our mental hygiene clinics, was essentially a materialistic, Freudian psychology, and was the source of all of our requests for sex education.

In regard to the question of sensitive boys and well-trained girls receiving universal instruction in sex matters, Father Summers felt that giving sex instruction in group form should not be attempted—but should be private and suited to the level of the age at which difficulties arise. Rather than give a child information which it cannot utilize, educators were cautioned to wait and take the chance of that child being informed on the vital facts of life in the so-called roundabout way. Parents were to educate their children only in fundamentals and not in effects which they cannot realize.

Father Hartigan concluded the evening's discussion by urging us to diffuse a "theory of life" while disposing of these surface problems, and in acknowledging the "organic integrity of the whole," to reflect the truly Catholic views of life.