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## Editorials

Catholic Physicians' Guild

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## EDITORIALS

### CHICAGO

This is the Chicago Issue of THE LINACRE QUARTERLY. It is the second number sponsored by a constituent Guild of the National Federation. Activated at the request of His Eminence, Albert Cardinal Meyer, as recently as 1961, the Chicago group had established its reason for existence as the articles included testify. Even before there was an organized Guild, Catholic physicians in this area were busy in the apostolate of Catholic Action. If your memory is long, recall that the Cana Conference Movement of this archdiocese spread the length and breadth of the country to become a usual deanery activity of this generation. The Catholic Family Life Conference was promoted to vigorous maturity also in this Crossroads of the Nation. Most recently, the LaLeche League has become international.

To Eugene F. Diamond, M.D., our associate editor from Chicago, a "doff of the hat" and grateful thanks for his promotion of this issue.

### THE REAL DOPE

Addiction is a disease. The addict is a patient. Yet, Father Daniel Egan, S.A., in his book, *The Junkie Priest*, decries the lack of medical interest in, therapeutic knowledge of and hospital care for both the patient and his disease. This deficiency could suggest that, in this area, the physician and the hospital administrator have set themselves up as judges. In the judgment that the affliction is self-induced, they deem it unworthy of the time and effort necessary for treatment. To challenge that medications ordered during an initial hospitalization of a susceptible patient might be at the root of the addiction would be keenly resented.

Since a hospital acquiesces to the demands of its staff, could it be that physicians are afraid to handle such cases because their knowledge is so scant? Recall the classical picture of intestinal obstruction disappearing enroute to the O.R.—as a result of the pre-op. narcotic. The surgeon becomes irate because he has mistaken "need" symptoms for those of a surgical abdomen.

Would it not be good Catholic Action for a regional hospital, with several specially trained physicians, to promote scientific care of the patient with the disease of addiction?

### COMMUNICATION

The twentieth century has witnessed amazing developments in the field of communications. Each medium has advanced the knowledge, the understanding, the needs and the interdependence of humanity. Who needs to list them to emphasize the progress they have contributed to the field of medicine? The Catholic and the American Hospital Associations have repeatedly stressed the adaptation and implementation of all possible by-products for greater efficiency in patient care.

Yet, what of these electronic marvels can match, for patient comfort, a cheery "Good morning," "Happy dreams," "Have a good day," or "Shalom." And what can equal, for hospital security, a telephone call to verify the dossier of a person to be placed under contract in a position that can spell success or error for each member of a staff?

W.J.E.