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Minutes of Bi-Annual Meeting Held June 10, 1942, 2:15 P.M., at K. of C. Hotel, Atlantic City, N.J.

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MINUTES OF BI-ANNUAL MEETING HELD JUNE 10, 1942, 2:15 P. M., at K. OF C. HOTEL, ATLANTIC CITY, N. J.

The meeting opened at 2:15 P. M., with invocation by the National Moderator, Rev. I. W. Cox, S.J., Dr. Thomas M. Brennan presiding.

The minutes of the last Bi-annual Meeting were read and approved. The Secretary's report was then submitted.

The President made a few appropriate remarks, in the course of which he called attention to the fact that since our last meeting the Federation has lost a member of the Executive Committee, Dr. Thomas E. Waldie, President of the New York Guild, and Dr. James J. Walsh, the Editor-in-Chief of THE LINACRE QUARTERLY. A pause of a few seconds was ordered during which prayers for the repose of their immortal souls were offered.

The President urged the formation of new guilds, although this will be difficult at present due to unsettled conditions.

The activities of the various guilds were enumerated: retreats, communion breakfasts, missionary help, co-operation with child-caring institutions and St. Vincent de Paul Societies, the aiding of medical students, free health care to children of parochial schools, supervision of magazines for sale on newsstands, etc.

Our Moderator, Father I. W. Cox, S.J., sketched the life's history of the Federation and the LINACRE. When the Federation

was started, it was at a time when the birth control movement was in full swing and was sweeping the country. Our inception was largely a defensive measure. We have not only pointed out the faulty stand of the birth control movement from a physical, as well as a moral, viewpoint but our ideas regarding the subject of euthanasia have been requested by a prominent Protestant physician who had been asked to prepare an article on this topic. He also called attention to the recent decision of the Supreme Court of the United States against the sterilization law of Oklahoma. In conclusion he quoted from a recent statement of the physician to the Royal English Family, "The conflict between East and West will be decided by the Birth rate."

One of our guests of honor, Dr. Victor Escardo y Anayo, of Montevideo, Uruguay, then spoke. He compared our Society with a similar one in his country and urged for close co-operation.

The second guest of honor, Dr. Manuel Salcedo Fernandini, of Lima, Peru, was then introduced and made a few timely remarks.

The Committee on Resolutions, Drs. John Masterson, Chas. F. McCarty and Edward Flood, then presented the following:

"The National Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds re-asserts its allegiance to all Catholic and moral principles which

have a bearing on the practice of medicine. Specifically, it expresses its abhorrence of the assaults on the sanctity of human life which arise from the advocacy of abortion, sterilization and planned parenthood through positive contraception. It calls attention to the fact that one of the most important of all fronts in the present crisis is the family front and that sound morality as well as sound patriotism demand the protection of the family and family fertility and the human life stream as fundamental to national well being. It condemns emphatically the present effort to popularize euthanasia. It welcomes the recent decision of the Supreme Court against the Sterilization Law of Oklahoma."

It was regularly moved and seconded that the Society go on record in favor of the resolution. Unanimously passed.

The Nominating Committee, Drs. John D'Albora, Wm. Lavelle and Joseph J. Regan, presented the following names:

For Moderator, Rev. I. W. Cox, S.J.; for President, Dr. John J. Masterson, Brooklyn; for 1st Vice-President, Dr. J. Otis, New Orleans; for 2nd Vice-President, Dr. Nicholas Feder, Belleville, Illinois; for 3rd Vice-President, Dr. Chas. J. Kickham, Boston; for Secretary, Dr. Maurice O'Shea, New York; for Treasurer, Dr. Paul W. Casson, New York.

It was regularly moved and seconded that the Secretary cast one ballot for the selections of the

Nominating Committee. Passed.

Dr. Mongan, Boston, thinks we might add to our work by stimulating research among the younger men. He called attention to the Fallon Clinic of Worcester, Mass. The men connected with this clinic are on the staff of St. Vincent Hospital and are doing fine work.

Dr. Joseph J. Regan, Boston, said that next Fall there will appear on the ballots of Massachusetts a referendum permitting physicians to legally give contraceptive information. It was opposed by the Catholic Physicians' Guild of Boston, but, despite the action of the opposition which had as its legal representative, the former Mayor of Boston, the Supreme Court decided that it be permitted to appear on the ballot. All are asked to influence their Massachusetts friends to vote "No" on this referendum.

The President introduced Drs. D'Albora, President of the Brooklyn Guild; Dr. Casson, of the Bronx Guild, our newly elected Treasurer; Dr. Podvin, former President of the Bronx Guild; and Dr. Chas. McCarty, Medical Director of Selective Service, Kings County, N. Y.

Dr. Allen, New Orleans, reported that meetings in their Guild were very interesting and well attended. The Newman Club members meet with the Guild once a year. He thinks Newman Clubs should be formed in every medical school.

Dr. Boyd, Springfield, Massa-

chusetts, is doing some good work individually. He sends pamphlets to his patients who have fallen away from their faith, and talks to prospective brides and grooms. He also addresses business organizations whenever possible.

The President congratulated the new officers and asked the members to support them in the same fine way in which they helped him and his staff. He thanked Dr. Wm. F. C. Steinbugler for

taking care of the arrangements for this meeting, acting in the place of Dr. Denzer who was called into military service.

Dr. Masterson, the newly-elected President, replied. He said he appreciated the honor conferred on him and would do his utmost to equal Dr. Brennan's splendid record.

Respectfully submitted,

WM. R. C. STEINBUGLER, M.D.,
Acting Secretary.

Medical Mission Sisters in Patna

Patna lies almost midway between Calcutta and Delhi. Although it is about the size of Minnesota (83,000 sq. mi.) this province has only three cities. Most of the 25,000,000 inhabitants live in villages. They are mainly Hindus, a few Mohammedans, and about two and a half million are Santals, who are animists by creed.

These Santals are a short-statured, dark-skinned, thick-lipped and flat-nosed race, quite different from the Hindus. They are among the aboriginal tribes of India, comparable in many ways to our American Indians.

It is among these aboriginals that the Jesuits have made many converts—at the rate of a thou-

sand a year! The Santals have neither the caste system nor the sophisticated prejudices of the Hindus. They will come to the missionaries and actually beg for hospitals. In 1939 the Medical Mission Sisters finally managed to respond to this plea, and on Christmas Eve, two sister-nurses arrived in Patna, to start a new hospital. They found an empty building awaiting them, the "Old Cathedral." Soon, though, twenty beds, chairs, and tables were furnished by the local Jesuit carpenter shop, and gradually the rest of the furniture is being assembled. Four Santal girls have entered as student nurses. The plan is to build a fifty bed hospital in Patna as soon as benefactors make it possible.