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Medical Mission Sisters in Patna

Catholic Physicians' Guild

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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.