

May 1991

Letters to the Editor ...

Catholic Physicians' Guild

Follow this and additional works at: <http://epublications.marquette.edu/lnq>

Recommended Citation

Catholic Physicians' Guild (1991) "Letters to the Editor ...," *The Linacre Quarterly*: Vol. 63: No. 2, Article 1.
Available at: <http://epublications.marquette.edu/lnq/vol63/iss2/1>

Letter to the Editor

Letter from New Zealand

To the Editor:

Like most years in our lives the past year has been full of interest and excitement. Vital statistics show that the population growth was 1.8 percent, which is the highest for several years. The cause was increased immigration which brought the total population to 3.6 million. Strange to say the main source of immigrants was South Korea. After that came Britain, then South-East Asia. The United States was well down the list. Could it possibly be a more desirable country than our own? Impossible, we would say. It must be the language barrier! "Stick 'em up, pardner!"

The birth rate is steady at 16.1 per 1000 (when I started in practice it was 26) and the average family size is down to 2.0 children. It is embarrassing to report that, of all the children born, an unbelievable 40 percent were illegitimate. This immediately brought forth from the Ministry of Health their usual desperate remedy, namely, more free contraception. They will not admit that this sure-to-fail prescription inevitably leads to more sex among the young, more pregnancies and even more abortions. The fundamental reason for this national sexual malaise is the abandoning of religious practice by the majority of the population, not excluding the Catholics.

The expectation of life continues to rise, being 73.4 years for a male and 79.1 for a female. These figures are almost the same as those for England, a little below Australia and Japan, a little above the United States.

It is humbling for modern medicine to recall that we have not been able to increase the expectation of life since biblical days.

When the Psalms were written (? 500 BC) it was "three score years and ten":

Our life is over like a sigh.
Our span is seventy years
Or eighty for those who are strong.
— Ps. 89 (90).

Like many indigenous people round the world the Maori are demanding special treatment and compensation for alleged injustices when the country was first colonised by the English in 1840. There have been several land occupations and violent confrontations with the police. At the National Day celebrations the Governor-General (a woman) was spat on and the flag trampled underfoot. The government offered the tribes a comprehensive cash settlement of land claims amounting to \$1 billion but this was rejected with contempt.

A beautiful exact copy of Capt. Cook's ship, "Endeavour", is sailing round New Zealand and giving pleasure to the thousands. But some Maori in Poverty Bay (sic) said they would not allow the ship into their harbour because Cook shot four threatening Maori in 1769. Talk about a long memory! In 1779 in the "Resolution" Cook explored the coast of California and Oregon near Cape Blanco and named the area New Albion. Perhaps as descendants of "perfidious Albion", as the French like to call the English, we could claim a billion dollars from the United States Government? After all, we obviously were there before President Clinton.

H. P. Dunn, M.D.,
Auckland, New Zealand