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Along Highway and Byway

Catholic Physicians' Guild

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THE LINACRE QUARTERLY

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VOL. VI

JANUARY, 1938

NO. 1

ALONG HIGHWAY AND BYWAY

Beginning the sixth volume of LINACRE, it is comforting to survey the accomplishments of the past twelve months.

The extension of the Federation by encouraging the formation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds is one of the purposes of this magazine. Friendly letters of inquiry and requests for advice as to the method of organizing associations of Catholic Physicians are continually being received from various parts of the United States and from Canada. With each reply, sample copies of LINACRE are forwarded.

The Editor of LINACRE has reached into other countries to establish contacts with Guilds, many of which are listed in Dr. Henri Bon's valuable publication, *Précis de Médecine Catholique*.

From unexpected sources, news comes of the existence of Guilds—one in Manila, one in Shanghai.

The following pathetic letter arrived on November 29th, with a note of approbation from the Vicar Apostolic of Shanghai, Most Reverend A. Haouisée, S.J.:

SOCIETAS SANCTI LUCAE MEDICORUM
CATHOLICORUM SINENSIIUM
280 Avenue Dubail
Shanghai, China

Shanghai, October 26th, 1937

Dear Sir,

You are surely aware of the great

misfortune of China in general and that of Shanghai in particular. The aggression of which our country is the victim, daily becomes more cruel, for deadly airplanes are ravaging not only the armies at the front, but also, and everywhere, the peaceful population in the rear.

Since the outbreak of hostilities, the Catholic medical corps has taken a very active part in caring for the wounded, both military and civil. This group has been very generously aided by all the Catholic missions which have given their premises for the establishment of temporary hospitals and their religious to act as nurses.

But that which we notice everywhere with the greatest of sorrow is the great dearth of medical supplies and surgical instruments—peaceful China has never wished to lay in a supply of such equipment in view of a war, and consequently the little reserve supply which she had on hand is now practically exhausted.

In the name of the Chinese Society of Saint Luke, allow us to solicit the aid which you might be able to give in this field. We are appending to this letter a list of such things as would be particularly useful.

We hope for the cause of humanity and especially for the Catholic cause that you will lend a favorable ear to our solicitation.

Our committee, under the Patronage of His Excellency Bishop Haouisée, Vicar Apostolic of Shanghai, will be charged with the distribution to different groups of the gifts that we will receive, and with the rendering to you of an account of the distribution that will be effected.

In the name of all the charitable organizations which will benefit from your

charity we express to you our most sincere acknowledgment.

Yours sincerely

The President of The Association
(Signed) D. Liem

LIST OF MEDICAL SUPPLIES

1. Anesthetics 2. Apparatus for sterilization 3. Antiseptics 4. Cardiotonics 5. Catgut 6. Hair thread (for stitching superficial wounds) 7. Emergency surgical instruments 8. Crutches, splints and materials for the care of broken bones 9. Anti-gangrene serums 10. Anti-tetanus serums 11. Adhesive tape 12. Anti-tetanus vaccine and other curative vaccines.

With this letter, the following approbation was enclosed:

I H S

Shanghai, October 22d, 1937

Dear President (Dr. Liem)

Knowing with what untiring devotion the members of your Saint Luke Association perform the work of corporal mercy towards the poor wounded who pack our ambulances, I can only join my appeal as Shepherd, suffering with those who suffer, to solicit the generosity of benefactors, thanking them in advance in the name of all the unfortunate ones who, through this assistance, will be assuaged and their sufferings made lighter.

Your entirely devoted in our Lord,

A. Haouisée, S.J.

Ep. Cerc. Vic. Ap. Shanghai.

An appeal for funds has been sent to all our Guilds. When the returns have been received, a shipment will be made by the Catholic Medical Mission Board, Father Garesché, S.J., kindly consenting to forward supplies to the value of our payment and adding additional material from his own stores.

A member of "The Religious Congregation of the Sisters of Saint Columban for Missions

amongst the Chinese," who had been taking courses in Obstetrics and Pediatrics in the New York Foundling Hospital, was about to return to her field of work. Therefore some supplies, consisting of Digitalis and Nitroglycerin tablets donated by the Federation (and supplied at half rates by Abbott Laboratories), surgical instruments donated by George Tie-mann & Co., surgical dressings and medicines from New York Foundling Hospital, were hurriedly assembled and taken by Sister on her return trip to China, the scene of her missionary labors. These supplies left New York four days after the receipt of the above letter, Sister embarking at San Francisco on December 11th, reaching Honolulu on December 16th on her way to the mission field by way of Hong Kong. The Mother House of the Sisters of St. Columban is at Silver Creek, New York, and the Chinese Headquarters are in the French Concession in Shanghai, from which city Dr. Liem addressed his message.

The Federation is grateful for this Providential opportunity to respond immediately to our confrere's appeal and takes pride in being the first to place in his hands some of the supplies which are so desperately needed.

Our gentle messenger carries also a letter to Dr. Liem from the President of the Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds, which will be delivered personally with the medical and surgical supplies.

ONE PHASE OF CONTINENCE

The fate of the millions of spermatozoa which are produced in the testes of a continent male has been a matter for conjecture. Spontaneous ejaculation accounts for the release of some but the means whereby the seminal vesicles and the vas deferens guard against over-storage remained in the realm of theory.

Based upon studies made with lipiodol injected into the seminal vesicles by Wilhelm, he and Seligmann examined specimens of urine obtained from abstinent men and were able to demonstrate the presence of spermatozoa in approximately three-quarters of the speci-

mens taken at frequent intervals. These findings were present independent of an ejaculation having taken place. It proves definitely Oslund's belief that the seminiferous tract empties itself by means of a slow, constant flow into the urethra in addition to mass emission.

From these observations it would seem as if there is no appreciable amount of storage of spermatozoa in the genital tract and that continence *per se* does not lead to atrophic changes in the testes due to disuse.—[Editorial, *New York State Medical Journal*, April 15, 1937.]

GOD THE SUPREME CONSOLER

Whatever their religious affiliation, people have the same reaction when great pain, grief, or misfortune befalls them—namely the urge to call on God for help. The innocent youth or the hardened criminal, the young mother who has lost her babe or the aged man who is mourning the death of his faithful wife—all cry out to the Supreme Being for help and consolation.

It has been my unhappy duty to see people of all denominations

die, and I can unhesitatingly say that the practicing Catholic does not fear death; instead he often welcomes the thought of going to a place where, in place of suffering, there is eternal happiness.

Every Catholic physician has seen the peace which blessed his patients after a priest heard their confessions and absolved them. Thank God for our faith in the Supreme Consoler!—P. B. SALATICH, M.D., New Orleans.