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Congregation de Notre Dame de L'Assistance Maternelle

Catholic Physicians' Guild

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which I have suggested would be the ideal units for collecting, interpreting and dispensing the clinical facts needed to establish more precisely the practical application of this law of biological sterility. Moralists have set forth

clearly the indications for the use of this method by Catholics. It remains for us to initiate the study of the medical aspects of the question, and thus make a very real contribution to medical science and to Christian sociology.

CONGREGATION DE NOTRE DAME DE L'ASSISTANCE MATERNELLE

350, rue de Vaugirard, Paris

The Congregation of Notre Dame de L'Assistance Maternelle was founded in 1857 by a doctor who, being a widower, entered the priesthood.

He therefore knew by experience what a big help a nun would be in a family where the mother has to stay in bed because a new baby is expected.

The founding of that Congregation also answered a need of the moment in France, where, due to the modern unbelief spreading over the country, parents often neglected to christen their babies in case of danger.

In France, the nuns get their State diploma and their diploma for children's nursing, but all their experience comes from a prolonged stay in their "maternity" where they learn about the service to be given to the mothers and where they assist at all the births.

This "maternity," founded 30 years ago, now much larger and absolutely modern, accommodates

about 450 mothers a year—the poor and those in moderate circumstances. All services are rendered by the nuns under the control of doctors and midwives.

Through their training, they become very skilful in their profession and they specialize particularly in the care of premature children, who could not live without special supervision and care.

A nun thus trained is able to be sent alone to a family, where she stays as long as they need her, and usually leaves the mother only when she has fully recovered. The nuns are paid by those who can afford it (about \$2.00 a day), and this enables them to give free care to the poor and even to give them such help as layettes, cribs, etc.

For several years dioceses have been asking for "foundations"—and the country doctors, where our nuns are sent, would like to keep them for "maternités" which they have founded themselves, but we cannot fulfill all these demands.