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Sterilization After Caesarean Section

Catholic Physicians' Guild

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of his teaching on every hand. He was the surgical genius of our generation. Sir Berkeley Moynihan, the distinguished English surgeon, in his oration upon Murphy, went so far as to say that Doctor Murphy was very probably the greatest surgeon who had lived during the past three hundred years. Dr. Moynihan, in tracing the history of surgery, shows how much Murphy accomplished and the genius he exhibited in the great development of surgery in our own day. He was a careful operator, finishing every step thoroughly and without haste, so that when the operation was completed, there had been no false move. Murphy talked while operating, explaining aloud the gentle, dexterous movements of his hand and the workings of his mind.

Doctor Murphy had an arresting personality, a handsome face, a tall spare figure, and a high-pitched vibrant voice, which caught and held the attention. Whenever he spoke, men made haste to hear him; no man wished

to miss a word; no man left his seat.

This outstanding surgeon was born in the small town of Appleton, Wisconsin, in 1857, of Irish-Catholic parents, Michael and Anne Grimes Murphy, and was a faithful Catholic all his life. He was married in Chicago in 1885 to Jeannette Plamonder, to whom he owed inspiration and encouragement throughout his subsequent brilliant career. Of this union, five children were born, a son and four daughters.

In recognition of Doctor Murphy's work, he was awarded the Laetare medal by the University of Notre Dame in 1902. In 1916, the Pope made him Knight Commander of the Order of Saint Gregory the Great. However, his health at this time was poor, and his remarkable life ended at Mackinac Island, August 11, 1916. He was a man of extraordinary ability, imbued with the principles of the Catholic faith, whose contributions to human knowledge and to the relief of human suffering are monumental.

STERILIZATION AFTER CAESAREAN SECTION

Question: "What are the duties of a Sister in the Operating Room regarding patients who cannot have normal deliveries and ask to be sterilized after the third Caesarean?"

Answer: Sterilization is never permissible either by operation or X-ray. This does not mean that diseased tissue may not be re-

moved or inhibited in function, provided the primary purpose is not sterilization, either permanent or temporary. Induction of labor at eighth month might meet the condition in the above case. Later a study of the Ogino-Knaus theorem would help prevent a recurrence of pregnancy.