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A.M.A.'s Eight-Point Platform

Catholic Physicians' Guild

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According to Rev. Gerald Kelly, S.J., "There is a very solid extrinsic authority for permitting this type of artificial fecundation between husband and wife, and it seems justifiable on intrinsic grounds. It has nothing in common with an unnatural sex act, such as pollution; or with a disordered sex act, such as fornication. In this method of fecundation, there is no frustration of the sexual processes; and the child thus conceived is the offspring of parents united in the stable bond of matrimony, and thus naturally apt and obligated to provide for its welfare."

As to the second question, artificial insemination between two unmarried persons, traditional Catholic theology teaches without equivocation that generative activity must be confined to the married state.

The answer to the third ques-

tion, as to whether two married people unable to have children may have a proxy father if the spermatozoa is obtained from this third party without venereal activity, is that the parties to the fecundation are not man and wife; hence the law of nature forbids the operation. Rev. Gerald Kelly, S.J., summarizes the subject as follows: "Artificial insemination involving pollution or onanism is never lawful; but if married people who are unable to have natural fertile intercourse wish to resort to a means of impregnation which includes no abuse of the sexual functions, it is probable that they may do so. Between two parties who are not united together in marriage, no form of artificial fecundation is lawful."

The author is largely indebted to Father Gerald Kelly, S.J., writing in the *Ecclesiastical Review* for August, 1939.

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The eight-point platform of the American Medical Association agrees with the proponents of the Wagner bill that the Federal Government should aid in providing medical service to the poor. Unlike the Wagner bill, however, the A. M. A. platform sets forth that the primary responsibility for public health rests with local gov-

ernment and that "Federal aid should be given only on the basis of proven local need." Dr. Van Etten said: "Needs for help should be discovered in the school district, then referred to the Township, to the County, to the State, to the Federal authority, in that order, and the Federal authority should be called upon as infrequently as possible."