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Guild Notes

Catholic Physicians' Guild

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locate some symptoms in his body, some in his mind, and project others outwardly in relation to persons, places or things. Psychiatrists classify the neurosis according to the presence and grouping of these symptoms, into four main divisions: hysteria, neurasthenia, psychasthenia and anxiety states. Space does not permit a consideration here of these separate clinical types.

Etiologically, various theories, as above noted, have been advanced to account for the neuroses. Many of these theories are merely descriptive. Most cases of neurosis as above indicated can be accounted for from facts that can be elicited usually without great difficulty by any tactful physician on careful history taking. A detailed history will usually reveal three things of importance: *firstly*, the neurotic patient usually remembers well, or can recall without difficulty, a prolonged period of suffering or inner strain resulting from unsolved difficulties, and furthermore he can recall the manner in which he has dealt with such problems. *Secondly*, these patients generally remember very well the history of their symptoms as to appearance, order, duration and severity. *Thirdly*, and very striking, is the fact that the patient is usually *wholly unaware*, but not "unconscious" in the Freudian sense, that it was his prolonged past history of inner strain that caused his symptoms. Indeed, he tends to resist, sometimes with much energy, the acceptance of such a view. In fact, the skill of the physician may be taxed in removing the resistance, which is generally necessary, however, for a lasting cure. It is important for the patient to realize that the symptoms are linked causatively to his past inner condition of mental strain.

(To be continued)

GUILD NOTES

BOSTON GUILD—The Guild of Saint Luke in Boston has held two very interesting and well attended meetings this spring. The first, held in February, in the Hotel Kenmore, was very enthusiastic and a fine attendance was present. We had at this meeting as our guest speaker the Reverend Michael J. Ahearn, of Weston College and Director of the Catholic Radio Period from Boston. He gave a very interesting and instructive address on "Science and Religion." Following his prepared talk, he gave in answer to a request, a very enlightening explanation on the erection, management, functioning and scientific value of the new seismograph now being erected at Weston College. The seismograph was the gift of the very grateful people of the city of Boston on the occasion of Father Ahearn's recent silver anniversary of his ordination in the Jesuit Order.

Also at this time it was voted by the Guild that it go on record in favor of the bill before the state legislature to raise the standard of medical education in the state of Massachusetts, and that the vote on this measure be presented to the Committee on Public Health, at that time hearing the bill. We further offered our services to the Diocesan Director of Parochial Schools in an advisory capacity in

any matters which might come up dealing with medical problems or those of public health.

The second spring meeting was held in the Hotel Kenmore on April 27th, 1936. We had as our guest speaker on this occasion the Reverend Edward J. Tivnan, S.J., formerly Dean of Fordham Medical School, former President of Weston College, and at present Director of Bellarmine Retreat House in Cohasset, Mass. He gave us a most interesting address on present-day problems as he sees them, in particular answering the ever-present question "What is wrong with the world today?" He gave us a most enlightening résumé of various comparable situations in past history, going back for his examples to the days before Christ. The eloquence, history, the application of data and the conclusions made a deep impression on the audience, as the applause at the end showed. It was reported at this meeting by the legislative agent of the Massachusetts Medical Society that our petition on the Medical Bill to raise the standards of medical education was probably the means of passing this bill and the thanks of the medical fraternity in Massachusetts was due to us. This is but another example of the work being accomplished by the Guild in matters of public good.

PHILADELPHIA GUILD—At the spring meeting, according to a report sent in by Dr. Joseph A. Daly, M.D., President of the Philadelphia Guild, forty members were present and, besides, three Protestants and one Jewish physician. Father Hawks, author of "William McGarvey and the Open Pulpit," was the speaker. His subject was "The Doctor and the Sacraments." Father Charles Shaffrey, S.J., M.D., and Father Keough, the Chaplain, contributed to the discussion.

BRONX GUILD—The Bronx Guild held its spring meeting with a communion breakfast on May 17th, 1936, at Fordham University. The Moderator, Father Ignatius W. Cox, S.J., said the mass and preached the sermon. The guest speaker was Dr. Frederick W. Rice, M.D., Professor of Obstetrics, Bellevue Medical College, New York City. His subject was "Biological Fertility and Sterility."

BELLEVILLE GUILD—The Editor of the LINACRE is always encouraged by the splendid and frequent mimeographed bulletins describing the energetic work of the Belleville Guild. In a recent letter to the Editor, the Very Reverend Monsignor M. J. Gruenewald, Moderator of the Belleville Guild, writes as follows: "Our Most Reverend Bishop has made a suggestion that the Catholic dentists be also invited to membership in the Guild. In small communities like ours, where Catholic doctors are few and far between, this would be a decided advantage because, as I take it, the primary object of the Guild is Catholic action, which would be common to both professions, that of the physician and of the dentist—unlike the strictly professional societies, such as medical and dental societies. I have discussed His Excellency's suggestion with our President and he agrees with me that it might be well to bring this matter up for consideration at the Convention which you propose to hold in Baltimore about June 18th. We shall, of course, try to have some representation there."