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Presidents Page

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President's Page

San Francisco was a most friendly city for the annual meeting of the Executive Board of The Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds. Several high-lights of the day are worth noting here.

Oakland has a large and active Guild under the direction of a newly appointed and vigorous moderator, Rt. Rev. Msgr. William F. Reilly. From the report of their local activities, it is certain that their affiliation will add strength to the Federation.

San Francisco has a Guild that is hospital sponsored. As in all cases, the Guild is considered by those not on that particular staff as a hospital rather than a diocesan group. For this reason its diocesan activity in Catholic Action is, at least psychologically, limited.

The Sacramento Guild cooperated nobly. Its moderator, Rt. Rev. Msgr. Thomas H. Markham, was an excellent stand-in for our moderator and LINACRE QUARTERLY editor at the Executive Board meeting, the presence of the latter being required at the annual convention of The Catholic Hospital Association in Atlantic City. Drs. Wright and Frey manned the booth in Convention Hall the entire day, while your officers were busy at the Board meeting.

When His Excellency, Archbishop Mitty was notified of our presence, he sent his press representative to glean an objective report of our progress. That report was carried in the headlines and lead article of *The Register*, July 6. The N.C.W.C. News Service also carried the account.

The only spiritual activity listed in the A.M.A. Program of Events was the Memorial Mass at Notre Dame des Victoires Church. This convention of thousands of physicians, who act in imitation of and derive their faculties from their Creator, was devoid of any other acknowledgment of the spiritual.

The Executive Board had more Guild delegate representation than at any previous session.

The Educational Booth in Convention Hall evoked more interested inquiries regarding Catholic thought in medicine than the two previous displays. Not only was it well received by the non-Catholic visitors, but it served as an excellent focus of contact between your executive group and physicians from all dioceses in the country and abroad.

Perhaps the happiest memory of this meeting was the Wednesday afternoon gathering at the Sir Francis Drake Hotel. This replaced the conventional luncheon formerly held. What was projected as a reception for Catholic physicians attending the A.M.A. meeting turned out to be a wonderful "family party." Many of the delegates showed their interest in Catholic Action was a natural maturation of their family unity. They attended the convention with their wives and in some instances their entire families. To this reception they came *in toto*. The net result was that distance East to West and North to South was voided, as previous strangers became admirable friends in the common kinship of Catholicism.

WILLIAM J. EGAN, M.D.