11-1-1957

Book Review of *Family Limitation* by John E. Ryan

Edward F. Keefe

Follow this and additional works at: http://epublications.marquette.edu/lnq

Part of the Ethics and Political Philosophy Commons, and the Medicine and Health Sciences Commons

Recommended Citation

Available at: http://epublications.marquette.edu/lnq/vol24/iss4/6
Review by
EDWARD F. KEEFE, M.D.

The plight of the Catholic gynecologist of the United Kingdom who participates in the National Health Service without conforming to its current attitudes on abortion, sterilization, and contraception was described to us by Mr. Ryan in a visit to the United States this summer. He solved the problem by staying out of the N.H.S. An even more difficult problem is faced by the British Catholic couple hemmed in by insufficient space for their families and materialistic standards of living. To help them, this booklet was written. The foreword by Rev. Alan Keenan, O.P.M., who has a sensitive understanding of the problems faced by Catholic couples, explains the moral background of systematic abstinence.

The booklet is not a layman's handbook—rather a guide for the physician and the patient under his supervision. It brings the system of periodic continence at the fertile time up-to-date. Now that basal body temperatures are known to be a valuable index of the time of ovulation, it is possible to estimate the time of fertility from menstrual records alone. Previous menstrual dates must still be used to estimate the possible dates of the next ovulation because no practical sign of impending ovulation has yet been described. The record of temperatures is used to great advantage to tell when each ovulation has occurred. The system is applicable to most women and simple enough for them to understand.

The balanced approach, neither cautious nor exuberant, bespeaks the author's experience. He is commended for having brought to publication this subject in which Catholic doctors have too often defaulted through ignorance, disinterest or evasion with the result that their patients drift out of the Church by using contraception. The Catholic physician should own and read this booklet, and be able to discuss its contents. The advice to a patient, "now, don't get pregnant," carries with it the responsibility to advise her how not to, in accord with Catholic moral principles.

Family Limitation
Published by
Sheed and Ward, New York
36 pages
50c a copy

The Linacre Quarterly
JOURNAL OF THE FEDERATION OF CATHOLIC PHYSICIANS'
GUIDES
INDEX
VOLUME 24
1957

Burial of Fetuses. The (Rev. Thomas E. Simons — J. P. Quinlism, M.D.), May, 62
Call to Catholic Action (Ignatius W. Cox, S.J.), Aug., 78
Carney, Francis W., Very Rev. M.M., Patron Saint of Medicine, Aug., 92
Cox, Ignatius W., S.J., Looking Forward, May, 44
Call to Catholic Action, Aug., 78
Cunningham, Clement P., M.D., The Medical Bureau at Lourdes, Aug., 96
De Militis Magni Corporis (Eugene G. Laforet, M.D.), Aug., 85
Doctor's Duty to Speak (T. Raber Taylor, A.B., LL.B.), May, 67
Doctor! Is There a Father in the House? (Edward D. Roche, C.M.), Feb., 11
Egan, William J., M.D., President's Page — Aug., 75; Nov., 114
Executive Board, Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds Winter Meeting, 1956, Feb., 31
Annual Meeting — June 1957, Aug., 99
Experimentation on Human Beings (Gerald Kelly, S.J.), Nov., 138
Federation Board Elects William J. Egan, M.D., President, Aug., 74
Federation Milestones (Rt. Rev. Msgr. D. A. McGowan), May, 54
Flanagan, John J., S.J., Twenty-Five Years of Catholic Action, May, 38
For the Good of Humanity — Ignaz Philipp Semmelweis, Feb., 17

NOVEMBER, 1957