

2-1-1959

Current Literature: Titles and Abstracts

Catholic Physicians' Guilds

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

Catholic Physicians' Guilds (1959) "Current Literature: Titles and Abstracts," *The Linacre Quarterly*: Vol. 26 : No. 1 , Article 5.
Available at: <http://epublications.marquette.edu/lnq/vol26/iss1/5>

Current Literature: Titles and Abstracts

The purpose of this department in THE LINCOLN QUARTERLY is to make available by abstracting such current articles as are thought to be of particular interest to the Catholic physician by virtue of their moral, religious, or social implications. It is not limited to the medical literature and, if necessary, this source is the most fruitful. When abstracts appear they are intended to reflect the content of the original article. Periodical editorial comment may follow the abstract if considered desirable. Contributions from readers are invited.

Kiskadden, W. S.: Physicians and the world's hidden crisis, *Am. J. Surg.*, 95: 211-215, February, 1958.

Writing principally as a demographer, the author advocates birth-control as the answer to "the world's hidden crisis," overpopulation. He concludes, "Superstition, taboos, and religious and traditional fixations are forces too powerful to be overcome quickly. The best present hope lies in educating the middle class group . . . to the truth that overpopulation threatens national security and prosperity."

Moynihan, J. F. (S.J.): Catholics and neurosis, *Spiritual Life*, 3: 247-256, December, 1957.

Father Moynihan discusses neuroses within the frame-work of Catholicism, and states ". . . in the long run, the confronting of anxiety, which is the core of neurosis, depends on what the individual regards as of value to himself and to his existence. In other words, there is a relationship between neurosis and one's system of values, one's philosophy and theology of life. For whatever may have in the past been alleged to be the chief factor contributing to the development of neurosis, there is a growing consensus among current psychiatrists that today it is basically an anxiety over the meaning of life."

Pincus, G., Rock, J., Garcia, C.R., Rice-Wray, E., Paniagua, M., and Rodriguez, Iris: Fertility control with oral medication, *Am. J. Obstet. and Gynec.*, 75: 1333-1346, June, 1958.

"Enovid" (norethynodrel and ethynyl estradiol 3-methyl ether) was shown to be effective oral contraceptive, pregnancy occurring in none of 265 Puerto Rican women who adhered to the prescribed regimen.

Gibbons, W. J. (S.J.): Antifertility drugs and morality, *America*, 98: 346-348, 14 December, 1957.

Gibbons, W. J. (S.J.) and Burch, T. K.: Physiologic control of fertility; process and morality, *Am. Ecc. Rev.*, 138: 246-277, April, 1958.

In the above two articles the moral implications of anti-fertility drugs are fully and authoritatively discussed.

Zilboorg, G.: Psychiatry's moral sphere, *America*, 99: 308-309, 7 June, 1958.

In this brief but scholarly paper the author reviews the Church's attitude towards modern psychiatry, particularly as expressed in the discourses of the late Pope Pius XII.

Lifschutz, J. E.: Hysterical stigmatization, *Am. J. Psychiat.*, 114: 527-531, December, 1957.

The writer summarizes the history of stigmatization from the time of St. Francis of Assisi to the present, including the case of Theresa Neumann, and adds an instance of non-religious stigmatization. He leans toward "the classical psychodynamic interpretation of hysterical stigmata by Fenichel and Ferenczi" in which they are viewed as hysterical "materializations."

Craig, R. D.: Sexual sterilization, *Am. J. Obstet. and Gynec.*, 74: 328-340, August, 1957.

This article represents "a survey of the pertinent literature on sexual sterilization for the past 25 years." Emphasis is on the physical, psychiatric, and legal aspects. Ethical factors are not discussed.

Fabing, H. D.: Epilepsy and the law, *Med. Clin. N. A.*, 361-373, March, 1958.

The writer reviews epilepsy from the

legal aspects, and discusses eugenic marriage laws, sterilization laws, and workman's compensation laws in relation to this disease. He concludes in part as follows: "Laws prohibiting the right of epileptics to marry occur in 16 of the United States. Although their enforcement is neglected in large measure, an equal number of states have laws which call for the sterilization of part or all of their epileptics. The advances in understanding and in treatment of the epileptic in recent years indicate that these laws are unsound and should be repealed."

Westberg, G. E.: Advice to the family on being given diagnosis of cancer, *Med. Clin. N. A.*, 563-568, March, 1958.

The recurring problem of how best to manage the personal and emotional crises attendant upon establishing a diagnosis of cancer in a patient is given thoughtful and sympathetic treatment in this paper. The approach is consonant with sound Christian principles and the "always-never" pitfall is avoided. The author is a minister who is Professor of Religion and Health at the University of Chicago.

Krugman, S. and Ward, R.: Rubella; demonstration of neutralizing anti-body in gamma globulin and re-evaluation of the rubella problem, *New Eng. J. Med.*, 259-16-19, July 3, 1958.

The risk of congenital malformation following maternal rubella contracted in the first trimester of pregnancy is uncertain but is probably in the range of 10 to 12 per cent. The earlier estimates of 90 or more per cent were based on retrospective studies which were initiated with the damaged infant: normal offspring, therefore, did not come to the attention of observers. A more precise estimate of the incidence of malformation will depend on future well-controlled prospective studies. The authors believe that therapeutic abortion may be indicated but stress "the need to consider each case in the light of its individual merits." They recommend the deliberate exposure of young girls to German measles as the best present method of preventing teratogenic rubella.

White, P. D.: Genes, the heart and destiny, *New Eng. J. Med.*, 256: 965-969, May 23, 1957. (Annual Discourse presented at the Annual Meeting of the Massachusetts Medical Society, Boston, May 21, 1957).

The dean of American cardiologists, in a plea for the closer study of genetic

elements in the development of heart disease, both congenital and acquired, pays tribute to the efforts of the Church in stimulating scientific investigation of cardiac illness. He states, "The leaders of the church often tried to combat the epidemic of the day. Even as recently as the hundred and fifty years ago, in the winter of 1705 to 1706, in Rome 100,000 deaths were attributed to the influenza, in brief to God's displeasure with the Romans. It took the combined efforts of Pope Clement XI and Lazzarini, his learned physician, to prove by autopsy that the sudden deaths were the result of natural causes."

Keller, Sister M. William, I.H.M.: The incidence of hospitalized mental illness among religious sisters in the United States, *Am. J. Psychiat.*, 115: 72-75, July, 1958.

(Author's Summary) "The findings of this study by no means nullify Father Moore's earlier hypothesis that psychotic personalities may be attracted to the religious life on the basis of what they think it will be. The apparent increase in mental disorder among 'active' religious, however, suggests that factors of stress may be contributing more to eventual breakdowns than was previously supposed."

Gorenberg, H. and Chesley, L. C.: Rheumatic heart disease in pregnancy; the remote prognosis in patients with "functionally severe" disease, *Ann. Int. Med.*, 49: 278-304, August, 1958.

The authors discuss at length the problem of rheumatic heart disease in pregnancy and state: "The final conclusion would seem to be that if a patient with a rheumatic heart disease is seen early enough in pregnancy to be aborted therapeutically, she has been seen early enough to be given good prenatal care and thus be allowed to complete a successful pregnancy which will not shorten her life."

The writers mention six rules in the care of the pregnant woman with rheumatic heart disease:

1. All pregnant women with cardiac disease need extra bed rest.
2. Cardiacs over 25 years of age should be seen weekly.
3. All patients in Class III or IV prior to pregnancy are hospitalized from the first visit to the clinic onward regardless of how well they seem.
4. All patients with a history of previous decompensation are hospitalized

when first seen and kept at absolute bed rest for the remainder of the pregnancy.

5. At the first sign of any decrease in cardiac reserve the patient is hospitalized and placed at absolute bed rest for the remainder of her pregnancy.

6. Surgical intervention is contraindicated.

They conclude: "We believe the evidence presented shows unequivocally that therapeutic abortion is unnecessary and cesarean section not indicated."

Burwell, C. Sidney, M.D. and James, M.D.: *Heart Disease and Pregnancy: Physiology and Management*, 8°, cloth, 352 pp., with 44 illustrations and a frontispiece. Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1958. \$10.00.

In his review of this comprehensive work for the *New England Journal of Medicine*, Dr. Walter Abelmann of the Heart Station of the Boston City Hospital states, "It is most gratifying to read that with the authors' principles of management, the prognosis for maternal survival through pregnancy, labor and the post-partum period approaches 99 per cent and that interruptions of pregnancy in cardiac patients have been reduced from over 15 per cent in 1950 to less than 5 per cent in 1956."

Barton, Richard T., M.D.: *Religious Doctrine and Medical Practice*. With a foreword by Raymond B. Allen, M.D. 8°, cloth, 107 pp., Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas, 1958. \$3.75.

As reviewed for the *New England Journal of Medicine* this book aims "to record for easy reference the customs and teachings of the great religions of the world as they relate to Western medical practice."

Edited by Winfield Best and Frederick S. Jaffe: *Simple Methods of Contraception: An Assessment of Their Medical, Moral and Social Implications*. With a foreword by R. Gordon Douglas, M.D., president, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, 8°, cloth, 64 pp., with several illustrations and 7 tables. New York: Planned Parent-

hood Federation of America, Inc., 1958. 25c.

Ladimer, L.: Human experimentation; medicolegal aspects, *New Eng. J. Med.*, 257: 18-24, July 4, 1957.

This is an excellent survey of the medical and legal background of human experimentation, and includes a brief discussion of ethical factors as well.

Laros, C. D.: Pregnancy after pneumonectomy for pulmonary tuberculosis; analysis of a collected series of seventy-four pregnancies in the Netherlands, *Am. Rev. Tuberc. and Pul. Dis.*, 78: 563-568, October, 1958.

After reviewing the obstetric history of seventy-four women who had undergone pneumonectomy for pulmonary tuberculosis, the writer concludes that pregnancy is well-tolerated by such patients if the pulmonary status is stable and there is no cardio-respiratory insufficiency. He feels it advisable, however, to limit the total number of pregnancies in this situation because the demands of a large growing family may possibly be beyond the mother's physical capacity.

An editorial by Dr. Walter Alvarez ("When efforts to prolong life may be unwise," *Modern Medicine*, 15 February, 1958, page 10) has stimulated an interesting spate of correspondence in that journal. The same theme has been discussed by Dr. Martin Donelson, Jr. ("Overtreatment of the hopelessly ill patient," *Current Medical Digest*, September, 1958, p. 46) and Dr. William B. Bean has contributed an excellent piece on a related topic (Bean, W. B.: On death, *A.M.A. Arch. Int. Med.*, 101: 199-202, February, 1958).

Readers interested in submitting abstracts, please send to:

Eugene G. Laforet, M.D.
170 Middlesex Rd.
Chestnut Hill 67, Mass.

Dr. Laforet is chairman of the committee to prepare these abstracts and will welcome contributions to this section.