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Catholic Physician of the Year: Dr. Edward W. Hayes, Sr.

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CATHOLIC PHYSICIAN of the YEAR

At a time when every new development in medicine tends to make it more impersonal and when searching questions continue to be asked about the trends in medical attitude and practice, it is a refreshing experience to recognize physicians whose attitudes and practices in medicine richly fulfill the biblical revelation that nothing is more beautiful than helping others. Today the National Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds has chosen to honor such a physician and to bestow on him the award, Catholic Physician-of-the-Year. I am privileged to announce that the recipient of this Award, nominated by the Physicians' Guild of Los Angeles, is Dr. Edward William Hayes, Sr., Monrovia, California.



Dr. Edward W. Hayes, Sr.

A native of Minnesota, Dr. Hayes' early life served to perpetuate his respect for hard work and the value of idealistic standards. As a student at Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota, while working to pay his own way, he was chosen a class-president, baseball manager, football captain, manager-editor of the college paper, and intercollegiate debater.

In 1913 he graduated in medicine from the University of Minnesota, but his medical practice after several years was put aside when he developed tuberculosis. Treatment, however, lacking in means employed today, was carried out in the beautiful resort surroundings of the Adirondacks, Saranac Lake, New York. One cannot speculate on what goes on in the mind of man put to the self-discipline necessary in successful sanitarium care. Nevertheless, Dr. Hayes, perhaps like other physicians recovering from the effects of infection with tubercle bacilli, then specialized in tuberculosis infections and diseases of the chest.

In 1919 he and the late Mrs. Hayes crossed down the continent and practiced two years in Tucson, Arizona, and in 1922 settled in the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains in Monrovia, California. There, rearing four children—one now is Mother Superior of the Good Shepherd Provincial Convent in Manila, Philippine Islands, and one is a physician—he demonstrated in the field of public health and private practice his capacity for exemplary leadership and charity. In both Orange County and the Imperial Valley—one must know the Imperial Valley to know the arduous difficulties that confront any one wanting to improve health standards—he organized the antituberculosis programs and established and helped supervise the sanitarium for patient care. The result was to share in the later excitement of a special era in public health and medicine: the appearance of aggressive epidemiologic effort against tuberculosis and the development of effective antibiotic therapy. Meanwhile he published two textbooks and innumerable pamphlets on tuberculosis and chest diseases, and chaired a council of the American College of Chest Physicians given the task to improve and increase the teaching of chest diseases in medical schools of the United States and Canada.

Dr. Hayes is past-president of the California Tuberculosis and Health Association and of the American College of Chest Physicians, past-medical di-

rector of the Maryknoll Sanitarium in Monrovia and the Santa Teresa Hospital of the Carmelite Sisters in Duarte, and member of the advisory board of the Good Shepherd Convent, the Archbishop's Charity Fund, and the Monrovia Family Service Bureau. And what doubtless was with full ecumenical spirit, he held successive academic appointments—now Professor Emeritus—at the College of Medical Evangelists in Los Angeles. In recognition too of the fulfillment of innumerable professional and civic tasks, Dr. Hayes received the Alumni Achievement Award of Carleton College, the Award of the California chapter of the American College of Physicians for a distinguished career in medicine, and the Meritorious Service Award of the American Legion.

In 1956 Dr. Hayes retired from active private practice, but in August, 1961, received the kind of tribute which I suspect held more significance for him as a man than all his awards and tributes. Thirteen organizations primarily of Mexican heritage gathered in Azusa, California in the San Gabriel Valley not merely to do Dr. Hayes honor but to show appreciation and affection for him and his "pet project"—the provision of medical care for Mexican children in the land bordering the international fence between California and Mexico. This requires long treks across the Mojave desert into the lower Imperial Valley and the areas around Mexicali, the capital of the Mexican state of Baja Norte, to find and bring the poor and destitute with crippling disorders not only to hospitals in Los Angeles, Duarte and Pasadena for medical and surgical care but also to foster homes to await medical care or provide convalescent care. Such is Dr. Hayes' project—transportation, medical care and foster homes for the poor of Mexico and Southern California. And when he is allowed time Dr. Hayes relaxes by instructing Catholic students attending public schools in the precepts of their religion. For he recently completed the advanced course of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine.

Presentation prepared by Fred M. Taylor, M.D., Houston, Texas Guild and chairman of the Catholic Physician of the Year Committee. Award made Nov. 30, 1962, Los Angeles, California.