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There are those who will do their best, accept an invitation to speak and be in love-making, or before certain emotions in the proper manner. It must be remembered that best may be inadequate on the part of the speaker. The bureau could add a project to their Cana activities.

TO THE EDITOR:

At a recent meeting at the Mayo Clinic, one of the discussants made the statement that Enovid is proper to be used from about the day 14 through the 26th of the cycle. This is on a supposition that though it might not have any effect on ovulation itself, it would, apparently, prevent the endometrial desquamation. Personally, I have a feeling this is absolutely in error, but would appreciate the sentiment of the Catholic Physicians' Guilds in regard to this.

LOUIS F. PINE, M.D.
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(Dr. Pine was referred to the article of Reverend John J. Lynch, S.J. in the August, 1964 issue of this journal.)

TO THE EDITOR:

At the time for each diocese to set up a speaker's bureau. The qualifications and availability of speakers should be on file. The bureau could then provide the best speakers in metropolitan areas, for those physicians who wish to teach themselves in the art of teaching sex-education. For many who show interest and who cannot attend classes, correspondence course should be initiated, with perhaps a final class demonstrating the use of the microphone. This would give the Church control of a large segment of sex-education in any community. In many instances other groups would be only too happy for the Church to take over the entire work. It is a matter of being properly prepared for the task.

FRANCIS C. BUCKLEY, M.D.
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(Catholic Physicians' Guilds might add this project to their Cana activities—Ed.)

A Marriage Manual for Catholics is the fruit of years of experience in the field of gynecology and obstetrics and of over fifteen years of marriage counseling. The work is a valuable guide to marriage, covering the usual topics of marriage manuals adequately but giving fuller treatment to matters within the specific competence of the physician.

In the Groves of Academie and in the research laboratories, each science and discipline creates its own glos­sary, symbols and jargon. Between acquisition of new knowledge and its revelation to the layman in the vernacular, there is expected to be a time lag. A knowledgeable person with a gift for expression must be found to establish lines of communication between specialists and laity. A marriage manual, cutting across many fields of learning, adds a new dimension to the problem of communication. The author must be familiar with many allied facets of knowledge, pass easily from medicine to philosophy, theology, psychology, and even economics, and be able to coordinate and synthesize the whole.

DOCTOR LYNCH presents us with a valuable guide to marriage, covering the usual topics of marriage manuals adequately but giving fuller treatment to matters within the specific competence of the physician.

In the chapters on the mystery of marriage, doctrine, and ethics, the author touches upon the obverse problem concerning the use of contraceptives. For many who show interest

REVIEWS


Review by:

Rev. Edward T. Douglas, S.J.
Professor of Theology Boston College, Chestnut Hill, Mass.

He is easy to follow and he keeps the reader attentive with apt figures, practical reflections and flashes of humor.

Doctor Lynch views marriage as a sublime vocation, a sacrament of love, and a way of life that needs some art and skill to bring lasting happiness.

He presents the ideal of marriage as obedience to the design for living established by God for the majority of mankind. The family is an image of the divine society of the most holy Trinity. "Let us make mankind to our own image and likeness. In the image of God he created him, male and female he created them." Gen. 1:26, 27.

Doctor Lynch describes the love of spouses in the Pauline analogy "Husbands love your wives just as Christ also loved the Church." The theme of love, altruistic love, complete giving of self to one's spouse recurs constantly. "Sex can be equated with love only within the context of the family." Accordingly, sins of the married are treated as outrages against love as well as justice.

In the chapters on the mystery of life and conjugal love, we are given a clear, frank and inspirational treatment which begets a reverential awe in the face of Divine Providence, which invites human cooperation and gives pleasure to the co-creators of another child of God.

In discussing the problem of family limitations, the Doctor draws upon ethics, papal encyclicals and allocations as well as sound medical lore in support of Catholic teaching. He also touches upon the obverse problem concerning aids to fertility for childless couples. The progestin and anti-nida-
tion pills are to him just as immoral as the usual positive contraceptive agents. Medically he fears the effects of continued use of the pill and lists a number of side effects already known or suspected.

More coverage is given in this book than in most manuals to the normal ills to which human flesh is heir, especially on the distaff side. Not that it becomes a medical manual, but normal processes and physical phenomena of a woman's life are described and some common ills indicated. Enough is given, the author thinks, to allay foolish fears and make women charry of auto-diagnosis and self-medication.

Engaged couples will want to read the manual through entirely, meditate on it and from time to time in their married life reread chapters of special personal interest.

Brides of every age will be grateful to Doctor Lynch for his sage advice and for his many insights into their minds and hearts along with his evi-

tary to men for the good of their personal interest.


A graceful and warm foreword by His Eminence, Richard Cardinal Cushing, Archbishop of Boston, bears witness to Doctor Lynch's credentials as an author on matters marital and medical.

This book will be welcomed by marriage counselors, parish priests, and engaged or married couples.

A Marriage Manual for Catholics

Published by
Trident Press, New York

CURRENT LITERATURE:

Titles and Abstracts


The answer to the question posed in the title may seem obvious, but it is at least possible that "health," as such, is no more desirable an objective than "wealth." Rene Dubos, for example, in his Mirage of Health, suggests that as one disease is conquered another takes its place. Thus, preoccupation with matters of health may precipitate psychosomatic disorders in the physically healthy. However, there is no evidence that striving for perfect health is in itself creating neuroses.

A second point is that sometimes the cure is said to be worse than the disease. But despite iatrogenic illnesses the balance is much in favor of modern therapeutic agents. Thirdly, there is the objection that modern medical care is unnecessarily prolonging the life of the elderly and unfit. This is not actually the case, since the greatest saving of life by modern advances has been among children and young adults. A fourth consideration is that the reduced mortality from disease is contributing to the population explosion and resultant overcrowding. It may be a factor, but "the fact remains that in advanced communities the recent rapid reduction of mortality has not resulted in an embarrassing increase in the population." Fifthly, is the conquest of disease too expensive? Grants such costs have risen, they have not been disproportionate to other items in the national economy, such as education. A final and philosophical issue suggests that a certain amount of insecurity and suffering is necessary in life; this, however, seems to be an individual and not a generic need.

There are good arguments for improving health and only flimsy ones against doing so. In the final analysis, though, the answer to the question posed originally depends on a value-judgment. Health, of course, is only one facet of progress. "Is it more important to cure cancer or to reach the moon? . . . Is it any more painful to be ill than it is to be lonely?" The concept that all forms of progress should keep pace with each other is probably a valid one. "But from the point of view of the individual patient, whatever the cause of his illness, the conquest of disease usually appears of supreme importance."


Because so many cancer patients are mortally ill, they have occasionally