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Editorial

Catholic Physicians' Guilds

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EDITORIAL

MEDICARE

The motivating force to a vocation in Medicine is well delineated in the "Young Physician's Prayer" of Doctor Marvin Aronson. Less motivation leads to boredom, unhappiness and egocentric frustration. In fact, once a physician loses his vision of being an instrument of the Creator, he can etch an ugly scar on the pages of medical history.

Witness the dictator of a neighboring country of the Carribean. He was a poor and struggling medical student, who, on graduation, returned to his back country area to care for his destitute people. His constant battle against Yaws gained him an assistanceship to the United States Public Health Service when our country was attempting to eliminate this contagion in the Islands. There, pride and ambition vitiated the instinct of his primary vocation. As he consulted himself into the Presidency of his country, he turned his back on God. He surrounded himself with a private militia — and worse: a goon squad of executioners, the Tonton Marcoute (Creole for bogey-man). Not satisfied, he built his own torture chamber in his palace and carries his own gun for spontaneous "justice." The healer has become a killer!

In contrast, the physician *Christopher* of Dr. John Slevin forgets self in his desire to serve. Fame, status, financial return and attributes subservient always to his dedication to the sick. Even in the face of opposition from faulty administration, from pedantic supervisors, from demagogic politicians, he continues to practice his art to the advantage of those entrusted to his care. This he does according to right laws and true ethics. This he will continue to do under Medicare, when it becomes the law of our country.

—W.J.E.

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