

February 1965

## Editorials

Catholic Physicians' Guilds

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### Recommended Citation

Catholic Physicians' Guilds (1965) "Editorials," *The Linacre Quarterly*: Vol. 32 : No. 1 , Article 5.  
Available at: <http://epublications.marquette.edu/lnq/vol32/iss1/5>

## EDITORIALS

### THE MEDICAL APOSTOLATE

Often when asked to work in the Guild, physicians question its real value. "Why have Catholic organizations at all?" *Commonweal* asks in a recent issue. Truly, most of them have ridiculous names and absurd purposes. Perhaps they tend even to keep us in our little parochial ghettos. Clannishness and defensiveness are not attractive qualities and hardly help us bring all men to Christ. Several papers in this issue may help to answer these questions as they apply to the Catholic Physicians' Guilds. It is true, many of our ethical and philosophical problems have an exclusively Catholic approach. If we do not provide the "Continuing Education" in ethics and philosophy necessary to prevent intellectual obsolescence, who will?

Luke, the lay evangelist, may have had similar thoughts as he pondered the admonition to carry Christ's teaching by word and by example. The pagan physician from Antioch took the route of *consecrating* the world as a layman—penetrating, permeating and influencing the temporal order as his clerical friend, Paul, could not. Similarly, the Mission Doctors Association chose to assist Msgr. Brouwers and his ordained missionaries through the lay apostolate. Further, they now operate on their own in this and other directions to create a more Christian environment.

Physicians today, as in the days of St. Luke, are among the educated laity. As their opinions are formed, so are those of the Church which they comprise. Pius XII, John XXIII, and Pope Paul VI have pointed out that it is the doctor's duty to study, research, synthesize and publish in controversial areas so that the Church of which they are members may more readily arrive at the truth. For the Church must go through the ordinary human processes of thought, study and consultation. If Catholic physicians are not generous in their efforts to acquire and transmit knowledge, the Church will be the poorer for it and the spectre of Galileo may haunt us again. As part of the people of God, physicians must recognize and share this responsibility.

Challenging years may be ahead for the medical profession in this country. The corporate influence of Catholic physicians can, if properly directed, help guide the course which our nation and our profession will follow. The example of medical citizens like Tom Bain and Ismael Mena will add lustre to the physician's image and reinforce his influence. It can even offset some of the ethical errors and evil images discussed by Dr. Doyle.

Therefore, we need the Guilds. We need the medical schools. We need them badly. They must perform their duties better, become stronger; be less timid—that St. Luke's example may live.

B. J. O'L.

### A MORE ACCURATE RHYTHM

Included in this Los Angeles issue is the article of Dr. Harold M. Groden on "pin-pointing" ovulation. The moral considerations have been cleared by theologians. The medical aspects need more than thirty-five patients for indisputable evidence. Important are these facts: This is a pilot study. It was done by a board qualified gynecologist in his own private practice. It was subsidized by no financial aid other than that furnished by the Norwood (Massachusetts) Hospital. Two qualified pathologists verified the testing and cytology. The type of pill used has been omitted to avoid prejudice. It is hoped that this clinical research will be a stimulus to more study of the perfection of the generative cycle. Therein will rest the better and more accurate use of luteal rhythm. By the way, the investigator and his wife, Helen, are the parents of fifteen children.

W.J.E.