The Catholic Hospital Association

EDITOR'S NOTE: To commemorate the Golden Jubilee of the Catholic Hospital Association, Mr. H. R. Bryden, editor of Hospital Progress, published the following account of the denoted work of the founder and his successors in the history of a hospital apostolate which the National Federation of Catholic Hospitals and to which we extend warm good wishes for future progress. What follows is for the edification of our readers.

REV. CHARLES B. MOULINIER, S.J., was born at Cincinnati Dec. 6, 1859 and died Aug. 1, 1941 at West Baden (Ind.) College. In the span of his nearly 82 years of life he founded the Catholic Hospital Association and his life is, in very fact, the reason for this issue of Hospital Progress; the reason for Catholic participation at a high plane of status and excellence in hospital, medical and health activities at the national level; the reason for the Joint Commission as we relate it to ourselves and ecclesiastical authority at canonically required times. In 1914 Father Moulinier was asked to conduct a retreat for the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet at St. Joseph's Academy, St. Paul, and following the retreat Father met with a group of some 14 sisters who discussed with him details of problems facing hospitals, especially Catholic hospitals, at that time. The date was July 15, 1914, and the place, St. Mary's Hospital, Minneapolis.

In 1915 Father Moulinier saw the beginning of his incipient plan take form. The first convention of the Catholic Hospital Association was held at St. Francis School in Milwaukee—the theme "Education In the Care of the Sick."

Plagued by sickness, but determined to see education established as the primary purpose of the fledgling organization, Father Moulinier fostered resolutions—radical then—such as the organized control of medical staffs, accepting only members of country medical societies on the years 1907 to 1915 were the crucial ones of Father Moulinier's life—and the most vital for all concerned with the Catholic hospital apostolate. In 1908 Father lectured in the Marquette School of Medicine on Medical Jurisprudence; in 1908-09 he was lecturer in Ethics in the Schools of Law, Dentistry and Pharmacy. Success begets responsibility among the Jesuits as among others and in September, 1909 he was appointed to the regency of four professional schools—Law, Dentistry, Medicine and Pharmacy. And in 1912 his regency was extended to include the School of Business Administration. Happily, in 1913 he was relieved of regency responsibilities except for the Schools of Medicine and Law.

More practical problems presented challenges which a man affiliated with medical education could not ignore. In 1910, supported by a grant from The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Education, Abraham Flexner, M.D., had published his report which showed that so called medical schools were indeed largely "factories" discharging as doctors a significant number of medical charlatans. The American Hospital Association and the new American College of Surgeons, in particular, were pressing for standardization of surgical hospital procedure and care. The ACS realized that if the Catholic hospitals, controlling a substantial number of voluntary beds in the country, did not "go along," the program could be "scuttled."

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But the various religious orders and communities operating the Catholic hospitals of that day were separate entities. There was little hope of getting agreement on procedure among many sisterhoods whose founders represented a vast, disparate range of basic policy. The sisterhoods and brotherhoods operating hospitals were obviously fulfilling a need—in their own peculiar way and with approval of their diocesan ordinary—but they were mostly "little islands" of health, accountable only to themselves and ecclesiastical authority at canonically required times.

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of CHA. and over-all emphasis on education 348.

vision, training in laboratory science

longer for a Joint Commission.

to establish acceptable standards in Catholic hospitals. Without this support we would have waited much

through the support of the bishops

of the country to gain episcopal _ap­probation of the goals of CHA. He approached Archbishop S. G. Mess­mer and won approval to "hit the road" with an inspection team of the American College of Surgeons

quietly to establish concord of pur­pose among religious orders and

worried little, if at all, about future

changes in social science; did not

did not concern themselves

with temporal things, including

structures. Sisters did not travel

of traditional religious community

hospital care. He faced the resistance

difficulty in implementing his far­ighted concepts of medical and hos­

tially evaluate Charles B. Moul­

No man at this distance in time

repudiated by a statement signed

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jointly by the CHA and NCWC,

Alphonse Schwitalla, S.J., this was at

Jesuit Bulletin

(No. 1) of 1957 gives some small

glimpse of his activities.

"One of the most widely known medical educators in the country,

Perhaps the epitaph of his life is

expressed in his obituary, spoken

at his Diamond Jubilee shortly be­

before his death at Westbaden, "Live

God above all things and in all

things and all things in God."

ALPHONSE M. S. SCHWITALLA

S.J. probably defines a description by

a contemporary—almost most of the

writer's knowledge of Father is

gleaned from his written work or

spoken remembrances of colleagues.

It is certain that he always been

a man of strong conviction—in rela­
tions with others often "martialist." He sought not approbation but perfe­

tion. A fellow Jesuit once described him as "the most brilliant man I

have ever known." Assuredly, he has left his mark on the Catholic

Hospital Association. The Schwi­
talla thread is woven into the fabric

of national health legislation, and

the structure of voluntary hospitals

owes much to Father because of his
tireless work for its preservation, and its elevation to current status.

He was a man of bottle brilliance

in his negotiations for acceptance of

the voluntary hospital system and its

coordination with the total national

hospital system. He wrote from legis­
lators acceptance of the unheard-of

concept of monetary compensa­tion

for services of religion. He strongly

opposed any form of health insur­

ance through social security. This

personal vendetta he lived to see

repudiated by a statement signed

jointly by the CHA and NCWC

after his retirement. But to Al­

phonse Schwitalla, S.J., this was a

best a pinprick to ego. He had long

before made this point and his pres­
dency of CHA was but one of his immeasurable contributions to medi­
cine, hospitals and education.

He assumed the presidency of

CHA at a time when Father Moul­

lineit's dedication to education was

threatened by the demands upon

the Association to reorganize, to re­
group its forces and direct them

into a new effort aimed primarily

to collaboration with other hospital

and health groups. The need was

for strong cooperative effort to iden­
tify and solve problems of inter­

relationships and goals of various

associations and agencies. The

American Hospital Association, the

American Protestant Hospital Ass­

ociation, the American Medical Asso­
ciation and CHA, under Father Schwi­
talla, enjoyed a "golden era" of cooperation. Before assuming the

presidency of CHA, Father Schwi­
talla had already distinguished him­

self in several capacities, one of

them as dean of the St. Louis Uni­

versity School of Medicine. He was the first layman to be awarded the

Certificate of Merit and Gold Medal

of the AMA in 1948 for "outstand­
ing effort for the public welfare on

a national level." The present med­

ical school building at St. Louis U.

is called Schwitalla Hall.

No vignette can approach a total

view of the man that is Alphonse M. Schwitalla, S.J. A quote from

the Jesuit Bulletin (Vol. XXXVI,

No. 1) of 1957 gives some small

glimpse of his activities.

"One of the most widely known medical educators in the country,

Father Schwitalla held the follow­ing positions at St. Louis University

—Department of Biology: Professor, 1924-1949; Director of the Depart­
ment, 1924-1947; School of Medi­
cine: Regent, 1924-1949; Dean, 1924-1948; School of Dentistry: Re­
gent, 1924-1944; Graduate School: Acting Dean, 1926-1929; School of

Nursing: Dean, 1928-1940; Regent, 1940-1944. In addition Father

Schwitalla was president of the

Catholic Hospital Association of the United States and Canada, 1928-

1947; editor of Hospital Progress,

1928-1947. A committee member

and inspector of the North Central

Association of Colleges and Second­

ary Schools, 1926-1941, he was the

first Jesuit to become its president,

1956-1937.

"Accomplishments due in whole

or in part to the activity or admnistr­
tation of Father Schwitalla include;

the establishment of the St. Mary's

Group of Hospitals as the Univer­
sity Hospital in 1924; the organiza­
tion of the Corporate Colleges of

St. Louis University in 1926; the

organization of the Department of

Medical Social Service in 1926; the

rebuiding of the School of Medicine

Building in 1927; the organization

of the St. Louis University School

of Nursing in 1928; the organization of the Committee on Grants for Re­

search in 1930; the planning and

erection of the Firmin Desloge Hos­

pital in 1933; the reorganization of

St. Mary's Infirmary as a hospital

for the Colored in 1933; the ex­
pansion of the School of Medicine

Building in 1948."

After a lengthy illness as a pa­

ient at St. Mary's Hospital in St.

November, 1965
Louis, in the care of the Sisters of St. Mary whose lives and goals have so long been identified with his, Father Schwitalla died on May 25 of this year. In 1957 in the Jesuit Bulletin he had some thoughts about the retirement of Jesuits: "As for retirement... Their chief occupation has not as yet been mentioned-preparing for the most important moment of life, when 'vita mutatur, non tollitur-life is changed not taken away.' Retirement is a good time to accumulate a rich reserve of merit and a great deposit of indulgences. For the rest there is nothing to worry about. Retirement... can and should be, and surely it is, the happiest period of a Jesuit's life, the most happy part of the hundredfold. 'Everyone that has left home... for my name's sake shall receive a hundredfold (Mt. 19, 27)', and so each one of us loves to pray: 'Take, O Lord, and receive all my liberty and prudent kin... take over the reins... give me only Thy Love and Thy grace and I am rich enough (St. Ignatius)."

REV. JOHN J. FLANAGAN, S.J., lawyer, priest, educator and administrator, assumed the post of executive director of the Association in 1947. M. R. Kneifl, CHA executive secretary, and the executive board of the CHA saw the need for reorganization of the Association and a greater commitment to educational programs if Catholic hospitals were to maintain their status and grow in service to patients. What was needed was an able educator and administrator to guide the reorganized CHA into a new and outlined program of education for members. Father Schwitalla had suffered a heart attack, but a look great tact and prudent kin did on the part of Father Flanagan to gradually "take over the reins." He had been prided by a farm boyhood in Iowa, a bachelor of arts in 1924 and a bachelor of law degree in 1926 from8hington University. He turned his back on a legal career and entered the Society of Jesus, was awarded a master of arts by St. Louis University in 1929 and was ordained in 1936. He was successively assistant dean of arts and sciences at St. Louis U, dean of Regis College in Denver and in 1942 became president of Regis. He was preparing for a baccalaureate when his provincial called him one evening—and at 5 a.m. the following morning he was met at the St. Louis airport by Father Provincial. After a meeting with Mr. Ray Kneifl that day, Father returned to Denver to wind up a happy and fruitful part of his life. He faced a future in a strange field. Hospitals and the health field were caught in the stormiest days of change and fantastic progress in history. Needed to even survive, were vision, courage, the ability to evaluate change and select what was good while discarding the fads. There were pressures from those who preferred to maintain the status quo and urgent importância from those who perhaps were drawn wholly by attraction to whatever was new without due appreciation of the values of tradition.

But what Father Flanagan has built is not a monument to himself. It is the synthesis of all those whose work he has guided and inspired to new vision and new horizons of excellence. Ad Multos Anno!