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Letters to the Editor ...

Catholic Physicians' Guilds

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Letters to the Editor . . .

Brief communications are welcome and will be printed as space permits, subject to the usual editing.

TO THE EDITOR:

I have read with great interest your articles on doctors in the mission fields in *THE LINACRE QUARTERLY*. However, I cannot help a comment on same.

It appears to me that from my own experience working in Harlem among the Negro population of New York City, and after a somewhat extended visit to Mississippi where I toured the areas where the Negro population is concentrated, that the great need for the missions of the Catholic Church in this country is to the disenfranchised Negro in the South. With all the good will in the world towards the missions of foreign countries, I believe our own country is in great need of missionaries — priests, brothers and sisters as well as physicians — to attend the spiritual as well as the physical needs of our American Negroes.

A great tragedy of American life is to me the fact that a segment of our population has been exploited by another much larger segment, namely the white American population. I believe that the American Catholic physician can do much to provide medical help for the Negro.

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TO THE EDITOR:

It was very disappointing for me to see an article entitled, "Ovulation Regulation" by Harold M. Groden in the February *LINACRE QUARTERLY*. Part 2 of same is characterized by sweeping medical statements not borne out by medical data or references. Your editorial note on Page 6 stating that this is a pilot study does not excuse the unwarranted medical claims this man has made. It is almost unbelievable that he would prepare such an article which, if the claims turn out to be true, should win him the Nobel Prize, and yet he will not be specific about what the specific and exact makeup of the tablet is. Other errors and suspicious claims made by this author are too numerous to elaborate. I would suggest, if you do not receive letters from other interested gynecologists who are concerned as I am, that you submit this article to some of your obstetric colleagues for their evaluation and that some sort of retraction or explanation be made in the next issue of *THE LINACRE QUARTERLY*. There is enough confusion about this subject without adding more.

*G. C. Nabors, M.D.
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TO THE EDITOR:

It has been brought to my attention recently, as a moral member of the medical profession are not convinced that steroids can be used to regulate an irregular menstrual cycle. Consequently, many Catholic physicians would prefer that confessors refrain from advising penitents whose cycle is too irregular to allow the safe practice of rhythm to consult a Catholic gynecologist who can probably correct this problem through the use of the pill.

I am convinced that a large number of confessors believe that this procedure has been highly successful and consequently, has been on the general approval of most members of the medical community. As a result, they quite readily and frequently advise their penitents along these lines.

However, if it is true that most medical men do not believe that this method is too successful, and if they would prefer that confessors refrain from giving such advice to their penitents, I feel that this view should be publicized, since it will be of value to all concerned.

I would like to write an article on this problem for one of the professional publications for priests. However, before I would do so, I would like to have the advice of a number of doctors. I would also be pleased to know about any literature in this area of which you may be aware.

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