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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.

RE. REV. PAUL V. HARRINGTON, J.C.L.
CHANCERY OFFICE
ARCHDIOCESE OF BOSTON
BOSTON, MASS.

I read with great interest your splendid article entitled "Abortion" (LQ, Nov. 1965). I wish to extend to you my sincere congratulations. In my judgment this is the finest article that has been written to date by any writer, Catholic or non-Catholic, on this controversial subject.

The Catholic press has given considerable publicity to our experiences in California in three legislative sessions — 1961, 1963 and 1965. No doubt, another bill will be introduced in the 1967 session. Our state committee may prepare a summary of the hearings in the aforementioned sessions. At a later date, I will send you a copy.

Rt. Rev. Msgr. Thomas J.
O'Dwyer
Dept. of Health and Hospitals
Archdiocese of Los Angeles

WILLIAM LYNCH, M.D.
1101 BEACON ST.
BROOKLINE, MASS.

I am pleased to reaffirm, in writing and based on verbatim notes I took, the public statement made by Dr. Alan Guttmacher at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Sex, held in New York last winter. Guttmacher indicated that his organization, Planned Parenthood, was shifting gears and intended to propagate the use of

intra-uterine devices rather than the anovulant pills for three reasons:

- 1) Pills are too expensive;
- 2) There has been too much "fall-out" from the use of pills, i.e., too many women have suffered bad effects of various kinds from their use;
- 3) It is too difficult to motivate large numbers of women to use pills with regularity.

On the other hand, he said, the IVD's are cheap, easy to insert, require no regular attention and, so far (based on the study of 17,000 regular users in his controlled research over a period of less than a year, as of last winter) have produced "only" 170 cases of pelvic inflammatory disease.

John T. Kenna
Special Assistant for
Program and Public Relations
N.C.W.C.

TO THE EDITOR:

I am only newly acquainted with THE LINACRE QUARTERLY but am much impressed with its mission and with the tremendous potential that such a periodical holds. I must confess that I was allowed to negotiate four years of medical school and another of internship without knowing of its existence. Surely we must do better than this in the future! Keep up the good work on the LQ.

William L. Cooke, M.D.
Dallas, Texas

FEBRUARY, 1966

TO THE EDITOR:

Some time ago, and intermittently since, you have mentioned in the LINACRE that you welcome contributions from your readers. I have something to send you that you may or may not be able to use, as you see fit.

I am the resident chaplain of Marymount Hospital, and in the six years that I have been engaged in hospital work, I have come to know that there are many fine and wonderful men in the medical profession. I think someone, and may I be one such, should say so from time to time, so that they may know they are appreciated and continue in their efforts to be better and better.

Not too long ago, I decided to compose what I call the "Beatitudes for a Patient" which I give to some of our patients who are a little worried or anxious. While its first objective is spiritual, I have tried to convey an attitude of trust and ease which is so helpful for anyone confined in the hospital. The physician is important in these "Beatitudes." Publish the composition if you wish, for anyone who might want to use the thoughts.

BEATITUDES FOR A PATIENT

Blessed are you if you believe in God
for you will never be alone.

Blessed are you if you believe in the
goodness of God
for then all your sufferings become
bearable.

Blessed are you if you believe in the
Providence of God
for then your sickness and hospital
stay have a meaning.

Blessed are you if you are resigned to
being in the hospital
for then who care for you will
bless you for being such a good
patient.

Blessed are you if you accept illness as
part of life
for then your well days will be truly
precious.

Blessed are you if you profit from your
hospital stay
by learning something you could not
have learned in any other way.

Blessed are you if you cooperate with the
Nurses
for then things will be so much easier
for all.

Blessed are you if you have confidence in
your Doctor
for then he can practice his art of
healing with so much greater success.

And thrice blessed are you if you desire to
do only good will — in sickness and in
health; on good days and bad; in life
and in death.

BUT ALWAYS HIS WILL.

If you do all these things, you are
doing fine, just fine.
God be with you,

*Fr. Joseph Ciolek
Marymount Hospital
Garfield Heights, Ohio*

TO THE EDITOR:

I enjoyed reading the article "Illegitimacy, Adoption, and Physicians" by Mr. Paul Waldner and Dr. Fred Taylor (August '65). I thought the article was excellent in that it touched on so many essential considerations without belaboring the points.

One particular remark did cause me some difficulties. The remark that "fewer agencies adhere to the outmoded (sic) requirement of re-

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quiring adoptive parents to prove (sic) their infertility", seemed to me to be misleading.

I doubt, seriously, that agencies which require infertility studies of prospective adoptive couples are really looking for scientifically conclusive "proof" of infertility. It is my conviction that infertility studies are more properly related to the "assessment of attitudes and feelings" (pg 212) and, consequently, by no means "outmoded."

References to "outmoded requirements" are not, in themselves, objected to; for certainly there are improved ways of doing things today; even — if I may be facetious — in the social work profession. I hope the authors did not mean to indict the practice of requiring infertility studies "in globo." If they did, then they still have a long way to go; for, to my knowledge, this

"new wave" theory has not yet penetrated the far-flung reaches of the Nation's Capital. If this was not their intention, perhaps further clarification is in order lest other "strong (negative) feelings about adoption agencies" be propagated.

In concluding I would like to thank the learned gentlemen for a very fine article, and add a personal note of appreciation to the many physicians who provide agencies like ours with such excellent care of our infants, as well as understanding and helpful treatment of the unwed mother. We are blessed to have a good corps of these gentlemen in our area.

*Rev. Thomas J. Cassidy
Director, Catholic Family and
Children's Services
Catholic Charities of Northern
Virginia, Inc.*

3rd ANNUAL CONFERENCE

National Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds
Houston, Texas

December 8-10, 1966

Shamrock Hotel

Sessions will concern

PROBLEMS CONFRONTING

PHYSICIANS, CLERGY and SCIENTISTS

in HUMAN ECOLOGY

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