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Medical Mission Sisters Report 1943 Attendance Largest in History of Mission Hospital

Medical Mission Sisters

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Ordered transmitted by the unanimous vote of all members present through Sister M. Leonie Tummers, M.D., who received her medical degree from George Washington University, Washington, D.C.

One of the chief activities of the Medical Mission Sisters is maternity and child welfare work. During the past year 630 babies were born in the hospital. Visits to the Maternity Clinic which is connected with the hospital totalled 2444, while home visits made by the sisters numbered 4481.

The many operations performed by the sisters are evidence of the increasing confidence which the people place in the hospital. During the past year there were 125 major and 838 minor operations. The medical officer in charge of the hospital is Sister M. Alma Lalinisk, M.D., a graduate of Woman's Medical College, Philadelphia, Pa. She is assisted by the Board of Trustees of the A. M. A. for presentation to that body at its next meeting, with the request that whatever action the Board may take be reported at the earliest possible date to His Excellency, Most Reverend John J. Glennon, Archbishop of St. Louis, and to Dr. James L. Mudd, President of the St. Louis Catholic Physicians' Guild.

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Another important feature of the hospital work is the training of Indian sisters and young lay women as nurses, compounders, laboratory technicians and nurse-midwives. Among the student nurses are sisters from five different religious communities, three of which can no longer receive the support of that portion of our population which belongs to the Catholic Church. Bearing this fact in mind, the St. Louis Catholic Physicians' Guild, made up entirely of members of the American Medical Association, at its annual Communion breakfast at Kenrick Seminary on May 14th, 1944, requested that the above preamble be sent to the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the A. M. A. for presentation to that body at its next meeting, with the request that whatever action the Board takes be reported at the earliest possible date to His Excellency, Most Reverend John J. Glennon, Archbishop of St. Louis, and to Dr. James L. Mudd, President of the St. Louis Catholic Physicians' Guild.

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many other outstanding in the field of Catholic Letters. You can't help laughing with and loving the man who was Chesterton. By all means put this on your must list. An outstanding work in the journalistic field is Romulo's "I Saw the Fall of the Philippines." It will give you an interesting and true insight into the conditions in the Southwest Pacific. If you like war stories read Casey's "Torpedo Junction" or Lt. Wittaker's "We Thought We Heard The Angels Sing." The latter is the spiritual epic of Rickenbacher's fall into the Pacific which he himself recounts in "Seven Came Through."

Gentlemen, I could go on indefinitely, but the time is growing short so I will conclude with a suggestion that you read and have others interested in the church read: "Amen! Amen!" by Constantino and "What Other Answer?" by Grant. These are the latest in up-to-date presentation of Catholic thought.

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which are native sisterhoods. The students also include sixteen young women from the South of India who are to form the first Indian community of Medical Mission Sisters.

One of the immediate objectives of the Medical Mission Sisters is the enlargement of the present Holy Family Hospital to a 200-bed capacity. Overcrowded conditions make this an absolute necessity. In building a new 200-bed hospital the sisters will increase their facilities for training nurses and other medical workers. The importance of this phase of the Medical Mission Apostolate was particularly stressed at the July 1943 conference of the newly organized Catholic Hospital Association of India, which placed first among its objectives: to teach and safeguard Catholic principles in medical and nursing practice.

To the report of their hospital work the sisters add a plea that the friends and benefactors in America who have been so generous in the past, may give them continued and even greater support, to enable them to carry out this urgent and important undertaking.

The Motherhouse and Novitiate of the Medical Mission Sisters is located at 8400 Pine Road, Fox Chase, Philadelphia, Pa.

Ralph Robert Nix, Passed Assistant Surgeon, United States Public Health Service, received his early training in the Jesuit High School of New Orleans, at Loyola University and after that at Louisiana State University where he was President of the Newman Club and prominent in extracurricular activities. While president of the Newman Club he served Holy Mass at their monthly meetings. Immediately following the outbreak of the war he volunteered for military service. He was placed in the Coast Guard and assigned to a hospital in Mobile. He insisted on sea duty where he could actively be of assistance to the boys who received war injuries from any cause, sick boys who were enemies or allies. His work was one of mercy. While on active duty at sea because of his excellent service he was given a citation for merit which he would have received on his next trip back to the United States. At the time of his death he was the first doctor from the State of Louisiana to have lost his life in the present war and the first from the United States Coast Guard. His rank was posthumously raised to Passed Assistant Surgeon which is equal to the rank of Captain. Ralph Robert Nix was the son of the late Colonel Ralph Robert Nix of New Orleans. He is survived by his mother, his wife and ten-months-old son, as well as by five sisters.

He attended the meetings and the annual Communion services of the New Orleans Catholic Physicians' Guild, and, although still young in years, he was a devout Catholic and a fearless and militant Christian—a true soldier of God and country. May his example act as an inspiration to other young Catholic physicians, and may he forever enjoy the fruits of his labors in the great heavenly Kingdom.

New Book for Doctors