MEDICAL MISSION SISTERS REPORT 1943 ATTENDANCE

According to the annual report from Holy Family Hospital in Rawalpindi, India, which has just been received at the Motherhouse in Philadelphia, Pa., the in-patient attendance for 1943 is the largest in the history of this 60-bed hospital, 33,078 patients were treated in 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, RESOLVED, 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.

Ordered transmitted by the unanimous vote of all members present through Alver H. Kerper, M.D.
Secretary

OUR CATHOLIC LITERARY HERITAGE

My aim is to acquaint you with our heritage, to give you even a sketchy outline of Catholic Letters. I shall attempt to give you a few of the highlights. Even then I will have to be very discriminating and present only the beacons. My aim is to acquaint you with the fact that our heritage is a rich one and that at the present time we are enjoying what is termed a Catholic Literary Revival. I would ask you to picture to yourself this revival as a great tree that sinks its roots down through twenty centuries of Catholic tradition and culture, drawing from them the inspiration and sustenance for the great trunk that symbolizes the unity, universality, and strength of Catholic letters, the branches and leaves representing countries and their respective authors drawing life from the trunk of the Catholic Church that is one in doctrine, one in authority, and one in Christ.

We must read ourselves into a realization and appreciation of our past, and into the conviction that our present literary revival is no clinging vine or withered shrub with no depth of earth, but a rich and precious burgeoning shrub with no depth of earth, but a rich and precious burgeoning shrub that runs forth into every civilization of man since the birth of Christ. As the Apostles prayed, the Holy Spirit rested upon them in tongues of flame, and they became a conflagration over the earth. Giants with inspiration quivering on their lips, they streamed from the Cenacle to topple the Jupiters and Molochs of those pagan days. And the crash of them resounded against the ears of Satan and his deputies who trembled in fear, standing on their cloven hooves. They turned the Christians on the wheel, tore them on the rack, burned them at the stake, fed them to the lions, and drove them into the earth, where they cherished the Word against the face of Satan. But truth cannot be shackled, and it ran forth into every civilized land springing even into the heavens, where Constantine saw the sign of it, and professed the faith of the Roman Emperors.

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Faith. Goths and Vandals thundered down upon the Empire, but their deluge broke against the Word. And Clovis burned what he had adored and adored what he had burned, bowing his head in baptism, and his people with him.

Outstanding amongst the writers of this period (—500) which I have so rapidly sketched are the Fathers and Doctors of the Church: St. Ignatius, St. Polycarp, St. Irenaeus, St. Athanasius, St. Jerome, St. Gregory Nazianzen, St. John Chrysostom, St. Ambrose, St. Augustine, etc.

St. Athanasius is noted for his brilliant work in defense of the faith against the Arians. Jerome gave us the Vulgate—the translation of the Bible into Latin. Augustine—the great Doctor of the Church—gave us that magnificent handbook of ruling monarchs for centuries. It was Augustine, the Bishop of Hippo in North Africa who, by his writings shaped and molded the spiritual life of Europe during the succeeding centuries. Read his Civitât Dei in the near future. In it is to be found the vision of what the world ought to be and would be, if Christians lived up to their Faith. You will be surprised at the similarity of present conditions with those of the rottening Roman Empire as described by Augustine.

500-1000 The Siege of Christendom Within and Without and Its Defense by Holy and Learned Men:

Benedict and his stalwart men came down from Monte Cassino, walked upon the ruins that the barbarians had made, and raised beacons of light in the darkness. The scimitars of Islam poured across the Loire to extinguish the light, but Charles the Hammer sent them back in splinters. And in the North, Boniface laid his axe to the sacred oak of Geismar and fetched the stroke that felled paganism in Europe. The time was now ripe for the formal erection of the City of God. On Christmas day of the year 800, Leo III placed the imperial crown on Charlemagne, making him collaborator in accomplishing the will of God on earth. And that indeed he was. After him, King Alfred the Saxon became the guardian of the Sacred City, keeping watch against the Danes on its ramparts in the West. Cyril, Methodius and their successors extended its boundaries in the East, pouring baptism upon the Slav from the Elbe river to the Don, and from the Baltic sea to the Adriatic.

Benedict gave us his famous rule which even today is used as the basis for religious congregations. The Venerable Bede, in England, gave us his “Ecclesiastical History of the English People” which is the principal source of the history of England from the earliest times to his day. Alfred the Great, also of England, translated numerous Catholic works into the Anglo-Saxon spoken in his day.

(1000-1500). The Flowering of Christendom... Its Gradual Withering and Decline:

Lawless kings arose within the walls who would imprison the Pope and thrust Europe back into barbarism. But Gregory VII who was of the very substance of the Rock, brought Henry IV to his hypocritical knees before the gates of Canossa. And because he had protected them against their evil passions, the princes of the earth remained strong to lead their armies in the Crusades to reclaim the homeland of Christ. While they struck great blows in the East, Francis and his Friars carried mercy and kindness to the West, making that the homeland of Christ also.

The souls of men were sweetened with the coming of peace, and their spirits thrilled to the vision of truth and beauty that was their heritage. Putting down their swords they took up the pen, the brush, and the chisel, and aspired to mirror the beauty of their Creator. Schools and statues and cathedrals rose up under their hands. Printing presses rolled back the clouds of ignorance and error, and men whose hearts were large with zeal went down to the sea in ships, stepped upon pathless shores, and spoke the Word to heathens in thirst to hear it.

The disappearance of strong kings gave rise to the feudalistic system in Europe. The expansion of the Church into all the lands brought with it much property. As time passed the practice of lay investiture put into high offices of the Church men unworthy of the dignity. Greed and selfishness raised their heads and goodness and justice were seen to falter. Strong kings were returning and there were some who coveted the land, using coercion, and Churchmen that turned their eyes from the light and were wicked. Doubt entered the minds of men, and in their hearts there was the stirring of dark passions.

Great amongst the men of this period are Gregory VII, St. Bernard of Clairvaux, Thomas Becket, Dominic, Francis of Assisi, Albert the Great, Bonaventure, Thomas Aquinas, Dante, Petrarch, Chaucer, Catherine of Siena, Raphael and Leonardo da Vinci.

Pope Gregory VII put up a terrific fight to destroy the evil practice of lay investiture and restore the clergy to its pristine fervor. St. Bernard reformed the Cistercians; Dominic and his army of learned men rose to combat rising heresies: Francis of Assisi began his mendicant orders to preach the poverty of Christ in a world when ecclesiastics were wealthy.

Thomas Aquinas, the Seraphic Doctor, is the brilliant light of all times. His great work, the Summa Theologica, is still the basis of real thought and reasoning in the world today. Two outstanding educators in the United States right now base all their reasoning and teaching on St. Thomas. Those two men are Doctors Robert Hutchins and Mortimer Adler of the University of Chicago. Hut-
The devil, fuming the while, plotted evil in the darkness, filling proud men and covetous princes with his hate and greed that was primeval. Heretics of his making assailed Christendom, and it staggered even to the Rock that Christ had planted it upon. But learned men took counsel at Trent, strengthened the bastions of the keep, and struck a mighty counterblow. Satan, in his dismay, sent the Turk to do his will. But Don Juan, sailing under the banner of the Virgin Mary, and missionaries flung him from pagan hearts in distant lands. False prophets rose again, mocking the Son of God. Man, they sneered, was made to hold with them in their evil called destruction. The brave ones, led by Newman and Chateaubriand, went to the aid of Christ with all his weapons. The Cross on his shield, and the baptism on his brow, the sign of victory of the Word, and in the camp of the true church, new strength served us by our outstanding Catholic, Werfel has indicated that he will spend the rest of his life writing to make the truth and beauty of the Catholic Faith better known and loved.

If you have not yet read "Damien the Leper" by Farrow do so before many more weeks pass. Farrow is a Hollywood producer, the husband of Maureen O'Sullivan, and is now serving in the armed forces. The timely book of travel by Archbishop Spellman, "Action This Day," will give you an excellent insight into men and places very much in the news of the world today.

Some may think me a bit too optimistic in suggesting Farrell's "A Companion to the Summa," but any thinking man will find the rationalization of the commandments and teachings of the church into everyday life, useful as well as stimulating.

The Best Seller by Maisie Ward, "Gilbert Keith Chesterton," will acquaint you not only with the man Chesterton, but also with his work.
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.

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

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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 extra-curricular 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-month-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