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Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds

Catholic Physicians' Guilds
FEDERATION OF CATHOLIC PHYSICIANS' GUILDS

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The President's Page

THE CATHOLIC PHYSICIAN has a privileged position amongst his fellow men. He is carrying a long tradition which had its beginnings shortly after the coming of Christ. When one reads the history of medicine as recorded by unbiased reporters, one is impressed with this great tradition.

The record of history shows beyond question of doubt that the Catholic Church is NOT what so many of her detractors charge—an obstacle to the advancement of medical progress. It is true that the Catholic Church has many critics. She is belabored because she stands four square against the false philosophy of artificial birth control. She is criticized because she sternly resists the legalized murder advocated by some so-called scientists under the false front of euthanasia—or, as it is sometimes popularly presented "mercy killing." She is scorned because she condemns mutilation of the human body by sterilization. She is ridiculed because she forbids Her children to employ artificial preventives of natural functions in violation of the laws of nature and of God. . . . She is considered old-fashioned by some because She opposes certain misguided followers of D. Sigmund Freud's theories and dictums.

The Church does oppose all these various theories, practices and philosophies. This is true. But this does not mean that She is opposed to truth. The Church has never been the detractor of true science and medical progress. Her mission is now and has always been to lead men to salvation and enjoyment of everlasting happiness. She would not be fulfilling Her Divine mission if She ever stood in the way of man's search for Eternal Truth. It is Her task to help men rather than impede them.

The whole history of the Christian era—early history, medieval history, modern history—all testify to the work of the Church and her contributions to science, including the medical history which will be our concern in the brief discussions in the next few issues of THE LINACRE QUARTERLY.

Christ Himself gave the first boost to medical practice. He did this in two ways: first, by Himself healing the afflicted, and by numbering a physician among His Disciples. That physician was St. Luke, the Evangelist, the author of the Third Gospel and the Acts of the Apostles.