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The Unknown doctor: (An Editorial)

Catholic Physicians' Guilds

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ANNUAL MEETING OF CATHOLIC PHYSICIANS

The annual meeting of the Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds will be held in Atlantic City, June 13, at 12:30 p.m. The meeting will consist of a luncheon and a program. All Catholic physicians in attendance at the A.M.A. Convention being held at that time are cordially invited to be present.

It will be followed by a business meeting of the membership, including the election of new officers.

The Executive Board of the Federation will meet at 10:00 a.m. June 13. The Executive Board comprises the elective officers of the Federation and one delegate from each active constituent Guild.

The place of the meeting will be announced later.

An Editorial:
The Unknown Doctor

IT IS POSSIBLE for the zealous pastor to preach too much about sin and not enough about virtue. Sometimes we continue to exhort readers and hearers to greater perfection and do not give recognition to the good that people do. I do believe that those who write to Catholic physicians and write for Catholic physicians should be mindful of this weakness. In the newspapers we read of the sensational crimes and errors of the few and hear little of the heroic day-by-day living of our good citizens.

In like manner we hear of the physicians who discredit their profession. In the last few years we have been hearing much about the physicians who appear to be money-minded, the ones who charge excessive fees and the ones who refuse to answer night calls. We hear or read little of the charity, the devotion to duty, and the extraordinary sacrifice of thousands of hardworking medical men. There are thousands of Catholic physicians whose thoroughly spiritual outlook on life and their application of this to their medical practice constitute truly apostolic work. We hear little about them.

Recently a Catholic physician, still in the prime of life, died very suddenly. The people in the hospital where he brought his cases knew that he was an excellent doctor. They knew in a general way that he was considerate and conscientious and tireless in giving personal care to his patients. Only at his death, however, did the hospital authorities, friends, and even members of his own family, realize the good he had been doing. Three thousand Mass cards were presented by friends and patients. The large Church could not accommodate the crowd at his funeral. There are many others like this doctor, but we do not hear about the good they do.

We cast a stern and searching eye on the questionable practices of some ill-informed Catholic doctors and we are inclined to rant against them. We know nothing of the quiet skillful work of the many good Catholic doctors whose conscientious work is taken for granted. We know little of the battle which good Catholic doctors wage against materialistic practices in medicine. The Editor of LINACRE QUARTERLY salutes the unheralded work of our Catholic physicians. We hope that we can hear more about the good they do.