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"We need and are in dire necessity of having some doctor or medical expert to enlighten the Judge in this matter, that is our principal problem, as we have no money with which to obtain this service.

"I will greatly appreciate your sending me any literature or articles that will help in my case for unless I can overthrow the medical testimony that has been offered by the State's doctors, I will be greatly handicapped in my defense.

"The Warden, Honorable S. E. Brown, is a very broad-minded man, and has granted us every consideration in this case, and any literature that you will send will be allowed."

THE CATHOLIC MEDICAL MISSION BOARD AND ITS WORK

By EDWARD F. GARESCHE, S.J.

The month of October is a month especially dedicated to stimulating interest in foreign missions. To show how the Catholic doctor can contribute to the spread of the Kingdom of Christ, we are presenting this splendid article by the Director of the Catholic Medical Mission Board, 10 West 17th Street, New York City.

THE medical side of the missions should especially appeal to men who have devoted their lives to medical ministrations. The fruitful field offered by medical work in the missions is inconceivably great. Many of the missionaries live and work at distances of hundreds of miles from any hospital, doctor, nurse or even drug store. They are besieged by crowds of sorely afflicted people, suffering from almost every ill that human flesh is heir to and without the elementary knowledge of the simplest remedies to help them. Thus the missionary and his helpers, though they would often much prefer to confine their activities to preaching the Gospel, find themselves almost forced to establish a dispensary and do what they can to relieve so much suffering. As a reward for their charitable efforts, they find that this kindness to the sick is the most effective means of interesting the pagans in Christian teaching. Thus is verified the motto of the Board, approved by the Holy Father with such heartfelt interest and affection, "The Body for the Sake of the Soul, the Body and Soul for God."

These dispensaries are, of course, only emergency and first-aid stations and it is desirable that they should be improved as rapidly as

possible, but they do an enormous lot of good and are indispensable at present because it is absolutely impossible to replace them with a hospital with a skilled staff. Hence, one of the first tasks of the Catholic Medical Mission Board has been to strengthen the hands of the missionaries by supplying quantities of medicines, instruments, bandages and dressings, to the many missions that plead for aid. In the last five years the number of missions thus helped is about nine hundred, conducted by about a hundred different communities. Besides this, the Board has helped many hospitals on the missions, most of which are quite inadequately equipped, though of course everyone does the best they can to bring them up to standard. The huge sums of money contributed by non-Catholics for their medical mission works has enabled Protestant denominations to erect and maintain great hospitals in the mission field, and the Catholic missionaries often have to go to these hospitals for medical attention, but it will be a long time, at the present rate of progress, before Catholics can equal this lavishness of expenditure unless we can interest more of our people in the cause.

The same reason has made it impossible hitherto to send any considerable number of doctors and nurses to the missions under Catholic auspices. Quite a number of doctors and a still larger number of nurses have volunteered to go on the missions, but neither the mission superiors nor any other organization can afford to send them to the mission field and maintain them there. After much study of the question of adequate personnel for medical work on the missions, the Board has determined to concentrate its efforts on the education of natives and to form burses and endowments for this purpose. We are beginning an active campaign for the establishment of schools of nurses, conducted by Sisters, in mission lands to train native girls for the care of the sick. For the education of native doctors we expect to use the facilities afforded in mission lands by existing schools of medicine. All this work will be under the direction of the missionary superiors and the Vicars-General of mission lands.

We very much desire the co-operation of all our Catholic doctors, both individually and through their guilds. Our purpose is not to interfere with existing activities, nor to impose heavy burdens on any individual or group, but to get everyone to do a little and to undertake some specific task in aid of our work. Even to contribute the useful sample medicines which the individual physician does not need in his practice would be a notable service and these samples may either be sent direct to the headquarters at 8 and 10 West 17th Street, New

York City (or, in the case of those who are nearer San Francisco, to our Pacific Coast Bureau, 909 Hearst Building, San Francisco, California), by freight prepaid, or any other prepaid carriage, or they may be given to some local group who are collecting samples and sending them to us. There is no doubt of the great usefulness of these samples on the missions, and the missionaries plead for greater and greater quantities. Of course, only ethical preparations, such as are approved by the Committee of the American Medical Association, are desired. Any unused instruments or equipment which the doctor can contribute will also be very welcome. The mission doctors and hospitals are often indescribably destitute. One missionary recently begged a set of surgical instruments "because the surgeons in his region often came to borrow even a pair of rubber gloves for an operation." Out of seventy mission hospitals from which we have recently received a report, only four were well-equipped, and they were government hospitals. During the last five years we have gathered and sent out 23,000 surgical instruments, contributed by hospitals and doctors.

We should also like to have the doctors become members of our auxiliary, and we wish very much to have in each city of importance an organization known as the Doctors' Wives' Auxiliary of the Catholic Medical Mission Board. Any doctor's wife who will organize such a society will confer a great favor on us, and we shall be glad to send full details and instructions.

Those who partake in this work will share in the millions of masses, prayers and good works offered up by the missionaries and their flocks for all our benefactors and co-workers. The recorded spiritual offerings in one year reached the total of two million masses, prayers and good works. They will also participate in countless works of mercy. In two communications, His Holiness the present Pope has expressed his earnest approval and ardent desire for the spread of the work and has given "a great blessing" to all who aid it; so also has His Eminence Cardinal Hayes, His Eminence Cardinal Fumasoni-Biondi, Prefect of the Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith, their Excellencies the Apostolic Delegates, and many other members of the hierarchy in the United States and in the mission field. We extend, therefore, a most cordial invitation to the readers of *THE LINACRE QUARTERLY*, to write and ask for any further information which they need, and tell us how they personally and collectively will help us to carry out our motto, which also expresses the inspiration of their own work as Catholic physicians, "The Body for the Sake of the Soul, the Body and Soul for God."