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Guild Notes

Catholic Physicians' Guild

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BROOKLYN GUILD—On Saturday, November 7th last, at 9 A. M., Bishop Molloy celebrated a Mass of Requiem at St. Mary's Hospital, Brooklyn, for the repose of the souls of the deceased Catholic physicians of the Diocese. Following the Mass the Most Reverend Bishop made a brief address to the members of the Guild present, urging them to try to attain the high spiritual aims set forth in the constitution of their organization. He also urged the physicians present to use every available opportunity to improve their technical skill so that the charge could never truthfully be made that Catholic physicians were not as well equipped scientifically as doctors of other faiths. The Mass was well attended by physicians from all over the Diocese and by many lay friends and relatives of departed physicians. Through the courtesy of Sister Marie Jeanne and the members of her community at St. Mary's Hospital, a splendid breakfast was served.

Before a large audience on Wednesday evening, December 9th, in the Columbus Club, Reverend Lawrence Patterson, S.J., professor of history at the Jesuit Seminary at Woodstock, Maryland, justified the present revolt in Spain. The lecture was held under the auspices of the Catholic Physicians' Guild of the Diocese of Brooklyn. Following the lecture, the speaker answered many questions.

Father Patterson first described the regional, racial and traditional background of Spain, showing the citizens were made up of different blood, using different languages and possessing different customs. He then described the political setup of the country, dwelling particularly on the members and influence of the Anarchosyndicalists. Approaching the modern conflict he presented the results of the election of last February when the Right or Conservative parties secured a majority of over 700,000 votes, yet lost the election due to the form of representation which gives the people of the cities a larger membership in the Cortes than the country.

When the Socialist Azana assumed control, Father Patterson said, he was pushed to the left by his radical supporters. At first he did not acquiesce and then started the frightful series of lawless acts which discredited the government. From February to June over 200 churches and schools were either destroyed or damaged; 10 newspapers were suppressed; 374 people were murdered; social, political and athletic clubs were abolished; 200 strikes were started, and it was generally recognized the nation was on the road to chaos from which Russia had hopes of establishing a Soviet. Liberal leaders and papers asserted that the government, unable to maintain law and order, might soon forfeit its right to exist.

On July 18th criminality was stalking the land and the army revolted. To its ranks sprang thousands and thousands of the people of Spain in order to save their country from complete chaos.

The war apparently, the speaker added, has reached a deadlock. General Franco rules two-thirds of the country, but a large number of people and a preponderance of industry and natural wealth are held by the territory under the Madrid Government.

The speaker urged his audience to become familiar with the events preceding the revolt and in that way they would be able to counteract the ignorance and unconscious, perhaps, prejudice manifested in the news presentation of many American dailies. The war is not one of democracy against fascism, or a revolt against a loyal government overwhelmingly elected by a majority of the people. It is a conflict directed by Anarchists to establish a revolutionary regime in Spain which, like Russia, would deny fundamental and God-given rights.

He concluded by asserting that the best security, aside from religion, against communism was a determination to fight for social justice and universal peace.
BRONX GUILD—On Sunday, November 22nd, the Catholic Physicians' Guild of the Bronx held its quarterly meeting at Fordham University. At 9 A. M. in the University Chapel Mass was said by our Moderator, the Reverend Ignatius Cox, S.J., who delivered a very interesting sermon on “The Catholic Doctor.” At ten o'clock breakfast was served. About fifty members attended. Following breakfast a business meeting was held, being presided over by the President, Dr. Henry J. Barrow. The guest speaker of the day was Mr. John P. O'Rourke, formerly of the New York District Attorney's office, who gave a most interesting talk on the “Medical Aspects of the District Attorney's Office.” Dr. Clarence O'Connor, President of the Bronx County Medical Society, and a member of our Guild, also made a few remarks. A standing vote of thanks was given to the speakers, and the meeting was adjourned at 11:55 A. M.

The Catholic Physicians' Guild of the Bronx has sustained great loss in the last six months due to the deaths of the following members: Dr. Charles McEveety, Dr. George F. Patton and Dr. James Harkins.

A committee was appointed to assist young Catholic students in entering medical schools. This committee assisted seven young men this college year.

A committee was appointed to promote a series of bridge parties during the Spring.

The Legislative Committee has been writing to the Senators and Assemblymen in regard to all legislation in which the Catholic physicians are interested, such as divorce bills, child labor and birth control.

The Executive Committee of the Catholic Physicians' Guild of the Bronx now meets the second Monday of each month at Fordham University to take up any matters of importance.

Dr. James B. McGrath was appointed chairman of the Retreat to be held in April.

PHILADELPHIA GUILD—A meeting of the Guild of SS. Luke, Cosmas and Damien was held on Thursday, November 19, 1936, in the auditorium of the Nurses' Home, St. Joseph's Hospital.


The Reverend Dr. O'Donnell discussed the duties and responsibilities of the Catholic physician and stressed the importance of having a sound knowledge of the doctrines of the Church in order to combat modern heresies.

A general discussion followed on ways and means of building up the organization so that every Catholic physician, dentist, pharmacist and medical student will actively participate in Catholic Action.

Dr. Martin Guckavan, chief resident physician of St. Mary's Hospital, announced that a Retreat for Catholic interns was held in December at St. Mary's Hospital.

The following officers were elected for 1937: President, Joseph A. Daly, M.D.; First Vice-President, Henry K. Seelaus, M.D.; Second Vice-President, John F. Coppolino, M.D.; Vice-Presidents: Louis H. Clerf, M.D., Albert W. Brown, M.D., John D. Donnelly, M.D., and John W McLaughlin, M.D.; Corresponding and Financial Secretary, Edw. F. McLaughlin, M.D.; Treasurer, Paul Cassidy, M.D., and Chaplain, the Reverend John W. Keogh.