January 1938

Congregation de Notre Dame de L'Assistance Maternelle

Catholic Physicians' Guild

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Recommended Citation
Catholic Physicians' Guild (1938) "Congregation de Notre Dame de L'Assistance Maternelle," The Linacre Quarterly: Vol. 6 : No. 1 , Article 3.
Available at: http://epublications.marquette.edu/lnq/vol6/iss1/3
which I have suggested would be
the ideal units for collecting, in-
terpreting and dispensing the clin-
ical facts needed to establish more
precisely the practical applica-
tion of this law of biological ster-
ility. Moralists have set forth
clearly the indications for the use
of this method by Catholics. It
remains for us to initiate the
study of the medical aspects of
the question, and thus make a very
real contribution to medical sci-
ence and to Christian sociology.

CONGREGATION DE NOTRE DAME DE L'ASSISTANCE MATERNELLE
350, rue de Vaugirard, Paris

The Congregation of Notre
Dame de L'Assistance Maternelle
was founded in 1857 by a doctor
who, being a widower, entered the
priesthood.

He therefore knew by experi-
ence what a big help a nun would
be in a family where the mother
has to stay in bed because a new
baby is expected.

The founding of that Congre-
gation also answered a need of the
moment in France, where, due to
the modern unbelief spreading
over the country, parents often
neglected to christen their babies
in case of danger.

In France, the nuns get their
State diploma and their diploma
for children's nursing, but all
their experience comes from a pro-
longed stay in their "maternity"
where they learn about the service
to be given to the mothers and
where they assist at all the births.

This "maternity," founded 30
years ago, now much larger and
absolutely modern, accommodates
about 450 mothers a year—the
poor and those in moderate cir-
cumstances. All services are ren-
dered by the nuns under the con-
trol of doctors and midwives.

Through their training, they
become very skilful in their pro-
fession and they specialize particu-
larly in the care of premature
children, who could not live with-
out special supervision and care.

A nun thus trained is able to be
sent alone to a family, where she
stays as long as they need her,
and usually leaves the mother only
when she has fully recovered. The
nuns are paid by those who can
afford it (about $2.00 a day), and
this enables them to give free care
to the poor and even to give them
such help as layettes, cribs, etc.

For several years dioceses have
been asking for "foundations"—
and the country doctors, where
our nuns are sent, would like to
keep them for "maternités" which
they have founded themselves, but
we cannot fulfill all these demands.