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Along Highway and Byway

Catholic Physicians' Guild

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Editor

JOSEPH A. DILLON, M.D.
1065 Lexington Avenue, New York City

Consulting Editor

J. J. WALSH, M.D., PH.D.
110 West 74th Street, New York City

Address all communications as follows: Articles and notes for publication—*Editor of THE LINACRE QUARTERLY*; Business communications and subscriptions—*Treasurer*, JAMES F. POWER, M.D., 265 West 90th Street, New York City; Information pertaining to the formation of new Guilds and application blanks—*Miss MADELINE MCGREGOR, Exec. Sec.*, 477 Madison Avenue, New York City.

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ALONG HIGHWAY AND BYWAY

The Federation is growing in influence through widely-scattered sections. In three consecutive issues of LINACRE, new Guilds have been announced: Dubuque, Iowa; Wilmington, Delaware; and now Hamilton, Ontario. The officials of the Federation congratulate the new Guild recently organized by Rev. Joseph S. McCowell, and welcome their Canadian confreres in affiliation. It is hoped that the Guilds—both old and new—will inspire one another in Catholic action and spread the seed for the formation of Guilds throughout the New World.

Physicians who are well-instructed in the doctrines of the Church make known to their associates the right and the wrong of questionable practices which these colleagues cannot decide because only Catholics have real authority to guide their decisions. At Guild meetings each ethical problem is discussed and explained. Every doctor is aided in deciding some moral question and occasionally learns of the immorality of methods which are so common as to seem to be right.

The addition of each Guild makes the Federation stronger and more influential when it is necessary to declare publicly the Catholic attitude on the medico-ethical heresies which are continually being promulgated.

Dr. J. K. Latchford, President of the Catholic Physicians' Guild of Toronto, Ontario, has published an article in the April number of the Canadian Medical Association Journal upon "The Menace of Sodium Bicarbonate." He states that instances of tetany have been reported following its use, due to interference with the discharge of oxygen by the circulating hemoglobin, with resultant anoxemia which tends to produce tissue breakdown, which the organism may or may not survive. It has been demonstrated that, like carbon monoxide, it impedes the normal liberation of oxygen by the circulating blood. LINACRE publishes an article in this number by Dr. Latchford upon "the Primary Moral Problem in Pernicious Vomiting of Pregnancy," bringing out some very interesting and novel points upon the chemistry of this very important problem.