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Along Highway and Byway

Catholic Physicians' Guild

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ALONG HIGHWAY AND BYWAY

LINACRE presents in this issue some articles on the very vital subject of contraception, the leading medico-moral topic of the day. We are favored in contributions by Dr. Leo J. Latz, expounder of Rhythm, who also supplies a translation from the Latin of the opinion of the Rev. Arthur Veermersch, S.J., the eminent moral theological authority; also an address by the Rev. Charles J. Miller, chaplain of the Dubuque Guild. Our very active Belleville Guild has sent an address delivered by Rev. Joseph M. Mueller, pastor of the Cathedral. Belleville is in Illinois, not in Ohio, as erroneously stated in our July number.

Germane to our symposium, is a copy of the statement adopted by the House of Delegates of the American Medical Association at the recent Convention in San Francisco:

"It is not the function of the American Medical Association to tell physicians what therapeutic advice they shall offer patients. However, it has been its policy to investigate various procedures, devices and drugs, and to publish the results of such studies in its official publications for the information of the profession.

"The instructions to the Coun-

cil on Pharmacy and Chemistry and the Council on Physical Therapy to investigate further the materials, devices and procedures used for the purpose of contraception do not indicate any change in the usual policy of the Association, nor do they constitute an endorsement by the Association of contraceptive practices."

The particular work of fighting contraceptive practices is the duty of Catholic physicians led by their militant chaplains. It should not be expected that the hierarchy do more than expound the doctrines of our Church; but it is for us to deal directly with our patients. We should oppose the extension of the propaganda of the birth controllers and the advertising of their devices for contraception. It is strange that any reputable firm dealing in surgical dressings, or a general mail order house, or a manufacturer of endocrines should market articles which they recommend for "Female Hygiene." The Catholic Hospital Association has given notice that our hospitals may have to decide to refuse patronage to those who sell such products. The only argument that seems to count is the financial one. Anything that diminishes profits is quickly dropped when this fact is understood.