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Children are Human

Catholic Physicians' Guild

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tion in such a program will be
warmly welcomed.
Upon my return from the St.
Louis meeting of the American
Medical Association I learned of
the action of the executive officers
in naming me to fill out the term
of office left vacant by the death
of Dr. Joseph A. Dillon, for whom
I entertained a deep sense of re-
gard, esteem and affection.
I register a feeling of inade-
quacy in undertaking to carry on
the splendid work so ably initi-
ated and so devotedly carried on
by our beloved Past President.
However, with his example of de-
votion to the best interest of the
Federation before me, I will carry
on to the best of my ability. I
simply ask your prayers and your
active support as individual mem-
ers. For the officers of the Fed-
eration, as well as on my own be-
half, I pledge continued devoted
service to the work of the Federa-
tion and the furtherance of the
ideals, purposes and aims set forth
in the constitution and by-laws of
our organization.

Children Are Human

In their saner moments, even
doting parents know that little
Mabel is not an angel, but, poten-
tially, a rational animal. In the
Code of Canon Law, we meet a re-
affirmation of Mabel’s status. For
the Code asserts that parents are
under a grave obligation to care
for Mabel’s religious, mental and
physical welfare.
The Catholic school ably sup-
plements the work of parents in
providing for the child’s religi-
ous and mental needs. But that
the average Catholic elementary
school provides equally well for its
physical well-being, is a statement
not to be accepted without qualifi-
cation. Perhaps it is because some
school heads think that a hospital
and a resident staff of nurses are
implied in the task of caring for
the child’s physical needs, that
they conduct the school as if chil-
dren had no bodies.
Nothing so elaborate is re-
quired. In our cities, at least, it
should be possible to arrange with
the local board of health, or with
a group of friendly physicians, to
give every child an adequate physi-
cal examination at least once a
year. Many pupils who seem to
neglect their work, or who cause
trouble by bad behavior, should
be given medical care instead of
the customary reprehension.
The child’s religious welfare
comes first, but its physical wel-
fare must not be neglected. For
all of little Mabel goes to school,
not merely her immortal soul.—
*America*, Sept. 16, 1939.