May 1969

Letter from New Zealand

H. P. Dunn
Letter From New Zealand . . .

The past year has been marked by a spectacular recovery in the economic situation, assisted partly by devaluation to parity with Sterling and partly by the rise in the price of wool. Exports have increased by 5% in one year, the Stock Exchange index has risen by 60%, and the foreign trade balance has changed from a deficit to a remarkable credit. In spite of heavy taxation an air of prosperity pervades society. Yesterday on Anniversary Day, 1100 yachts were racing on Auckland Harbour, ranging from 60 ft. keelers to 7 ft. one-boy types, not forgetting the writer's 17 ft. trailer-sailer.

Just after the publication of the encyclical Humanae Vitae a general meeting of Catholic doctors was held at the geothermal resort, Wairakei, with an attendance of about 100 doctors, nurses, nuns, priests and bishops. The guest speaker was Dr. J.J. Billings of Melbourne, author of "The Ovulation Method". Billings claims that if ovulation is timed precisely by the basal body temperature combined with observation of ovulation mucus and/or pain, and if intercourse is limited to post-ovulatory days, the failure rate of this physiological method of family limitation can be reduced to 1 per 100 woman-years, which equals the efficacy of the pill.

For his own part, this writer found the encyclical like a light shining in the darkness, dispersing doubts and uncertainties, and recalling doctors and patients to God's plan in marriage and reproduction.

In November your correspondent attended the 4th Asian Congress of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Singa-

Report

Dear Dr. Egan,

I am sending a short report about the official opening of Tien Medical Center and a brief resume of the first six months of its operating, beginning with March the 19th, 1968. I also have included some historical notes on the development of this hospital and at the end a plan for the future.

We are particularly interested in an appeal to the members of the Catholic Physicians' Guilds for medical personnel who would be willing to give us some months or years of their service, particularly in the fields of pediatrics and pathology. Secondly, we are in need of financial help due to a large debt of nearly $200,000 U.S. dollars which still remains to be paid for the building and equipment.

May I ask also for more information on suicide prevention centers such as the one described briefly in the letter Korea, Page 284, in your August 1967 issue.

Thank you for your kindness.

Sincerely yours,

Rev. Bartley F. Schmitz, SVD
Administrator

is being used as the basis for approaches to members of parliament, to prevent abortion legislation from getting onto the statute books. In simplified terms the policy behind the approach to individual parliamentarians is that well-tried American motto "Give 'em hell!"

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