Fame or Vocation?...An Editorial
Catholic Physicians' Guild
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Who has made head-line notoriety important to a physician? Could it be the physician himself? — Yet centuries of ethic have dictated that the physician avoid self-aggrandisement in pursuit of the health and well-being of his patients. Could it be Hospital Administration? — Yet hospital administration's sole concern is allegedly better facilities for better health care. Could it be Fund Administrators? — Yet their aim is the accumulation of monies to endow better research. Of course, any professional in finance will admit that to collect, you must magnetize the public. Alas, somewhere along the way, error research. This must magnetize the public. Alas, somewhere along the way, error research.

Much has been written about the ethics of transplantation procedures. Most emphasis has been on the morality of the donor. Who has challenged the validity of the recipient? Much remains to be researched in immune suppressant phenomena. Animal transplantation has not been ideal to this end. Kidney transplant has moved from the laboratory to the human with a knowledge of these handicaps but with the solace that the recipient has a second heart, while viable even though diseased, is not murder? Physician heed your vocation!

This Issue . . .

Unique for several reasons is this August Issue of Linacre:

First: After a long silence, two eminent moral theologians present a paper on contraception positioned from the allocutions of the Popes. This was presented to Linacre and to Homiletic and Pastoral Review at the same time. The latter had the earlier publication date of April. Since the reading audiences of the two journals would overlap but surely, Father Aidan Carr of H. & P. Review has granted permission for us to publish also.

Second: An embryological review of the medical literature verifies the continuity of life from the earliest known embryo.

Third: Monsignor Harrington, an attorney, offers the first of two articles in which, by recorded legal decisions the existence of the person in utero is proven.

Although the facts in all these papers have been available to seekers of the truth, the recordings have been scattered and diverse. This is the first time they have been assembled for ready reference. We hope that those who are entrusted with the authority to make decisions will acknowledge the validity of these researches.

Contraception: A Matter of Practical Doubt?


It is now over four years since public controversy over contraception became commonplace among Catholic theologians. Today we have with us a considerable number of competent moralists of repute—say nothing of certain individual members of the hierarchy—who will either deny or at least call in question the validity of traditional Church teaching on contraception in general. Apparently there are certain others, increasingly few in number, who will restrict their challenge to the teaching of Pius XII with respect to oral contraceptives, although they still pledge allegiance to traditional doctrine relative to other modes of artificial birth control.