Book Review of *Beginning Your Marriage* by John L. Thomas

John J. Egan

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Medical Melody

It is not known whether the Muse of music, Euterpe, is a blood relation of Aesculapius, the god of medicine, but we suspect that some relationship exists—however tenuous. As evidence for this hypothesis, we offer the following musical compositions and an appropriate (?) medical connotation:

- The Sorcerer's Apprentice (Dukas)
- Rounds (Diamond)
- Wasps (Vaughan)
- Litanies (Varése)
- The Slippers (Tchaikovsky)
- Undertow (Schumann)
- Mass of Life (Delius)
- John Brown's Body (Bishop)
- Surprise Symphony (Haydn)
- Academic Festival Overture (Brahms)
- Trial by Jury (Gilbert and Sullivan)
- Hunt Symphony (Haydn)
- In the Beginning (Copland)
- Mother Goose Suite (Ravel)
- Enigma Variations (Elgar)
- The Lost Chord (Sullivan)
- Night on Bald Mountain (Moussorgsky)
- Sleeping Beauty Ballet (Tchaikovsky)
- Fantastic Symphony (Berlioz)
- Fancy Free (Bernstein)
- Nutcracker Suite (Tchaikovsky)
- Pomp and Circumstance (Elgar)
- Yeoman of the Guard (Gilbert and Sullivan)
- The Medical Student
- Ward Walks
- Antihistamine Therapy
- Electrolyte Therapy
- Intervertebral Disks
- Trichophytosis
- Autopsy
- Tissue Culture
- Clinicopathological Conference
- Graduation
- Practice
- Consultation
- Obstetrics
- Pediatrics
- Internal Medicine
- Laryngology
- Dermatology
- Anesthesiology
- Psychiatry
- Psychoanalysis
- Neurosurgery
- Some Other Man's Specialty
- Nursing Staff

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Beginning Your Marriage

Review by
Rev. John J. Egan
The Cana Conference of Chicago

Sometimes good things do come in small packages. After having made one's way through many large and frequently loosely written works that present partial views as complete guides to marriage, it is gratifying to find a relatively thorough, well-balanced and realistic work in a pamphlet of seven chapters and 104 pages.

Beginning Your Marriage is a small booklet that has been published by the Cana Conference of Chicago to fill the need for a brief text for engaged couples on the questions about the final days of courtship and the initial days of wedded life. Intended for engaged couples, it presupposes the decision for marriage and is not concerned with such preliminary questions as basic sex instructions, dating or courtship problems.

The author is the Reverend John L. Thomas, S.J., assistant director of the Institute of Social Order at St. Louis University. His deep interest in the problems of the modern marriage and the family is evident from his other works, as The American Catholic Family (Prentice-Hall, 1956) and a Guide to Catholic Marriage (Bruce, 1955) on which he collaborated with Clement Mihalovich and Brother Gerald Schnepf, S.M. His qualifications are those of a priest and professional sociologist writing in an area of his field in which he has specialized. It is only natural that the preoccupations and viewpoints of the sociologist rather than those, e.g., of the psychologist, economist, or physician, should be apparent throughout the work.

The booklet is of peculiar value because of the broad but detailed presentation of a Catholic philosophy that the author has been able to inject in his terse treatment of the various practical problems that
Beginning Your Marriage

Booklet published by Delaney Publications
206 So. Grove Avenue
Oak Park, Illinois

50c a copy, plus postage
20% discount on quantity orders of 10 copies or more

This little volume can serve as an excellent pre-marital instruction text. It is, perhaps, of a specific use to physicians in the guidance of young people about to be married, or recently married, for it provides an excellent integration of the physical aspects of marriage with the psychological and spiritual factors which make them meaningful. It is too brief to serve as a text for any marriage course in school. Its frank discussion of sexual love likewise precludes its use to all but mature persons who are soon to be married. Within these limits, however, it not only is the one booklet of its kind, but probably will remain among the best for some years to come.

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