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Editorials

Catholic Physicians' Guilds

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EDITORIALS

GREAT MEN BEFORE US — GREAT MEN IN OUR MIST?

He did not fear science — He created it. Miracles of medicine proved His Divinity, emphasized His parables and canonized His saints. Religion cannot read an EKG; yet, science cannot analyze prayer, understand a woman or solve the mystery of silence.

Catholic medicine combines the science of Pasteur and the logic of Aquinas with the charity of Martin dePorres; good medicine is made better by love of God and fellow man. Research strengthens faith with science; with love no assignment is impossible and each mission is accomplished.

The Catholic Hospital Association and the National Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds face expanding roles under broadening horizons. Defining the role of the Catholic Physicians' Guild in the lay apostolate is as difficult as calibrating dreams or measuring courage. Urgent needs include:

1. A rapid channel of communication among laymen, religious, clergy, medical and para-medical personnel.
2. An apostolic mission of excellence in education, research and clinical medicine.
3. Health formation and health preservation for our dedicated religious personnel — providing stamina for their apostolate and health to match their dedication.

The Catholic physician sits in silence; hearing himself, seeing the certainty of the eternal. Solitude is for the soul as man dies alone. As he dreams in echelon, he asks himself, "What is my role? What have I done for the Church? What price glory?" His happiness must come from service to others and serving his God as a good and faithful servant. His contentment springs from proven courage in adversity in his daily combat of man against environment for God.

J. T. N.

THE PHILOSOPHY OF MEDICAL PRACTICE

LINACRE, since its inception, has been devoted to the promotion of the Philosophy and Ethics of Medical Practice. In past issues, medico-moral problems have been handled well. So well, in fact, that the various facets have been compiled into the classic book form by the late Gerald Kelly, S.J. The more recent refinements will be included in an edition, revised by Father John J. Lynch, S.J.

In the past year, we have attempted to present more of the philosophy of the Catholic physician and his practice. This comes into sharp focus in the articles of this issue, many of which were presented at the New Orleans Meeting on Medical Education and Research.

Change is apparent in all fields of human endeavor. Aware and current with the newer attitudes toward hospitals and the practice of medicine, the hospital family — trustees, administrators and staff — will cooperate to offer the best in patient care.

W.J.E.