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Letters to the Editor

Catholic Physicians' Guild

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dent of Marquette University when he welcomed the Catholic Biblical Association to Marquette at their annual meeting in September, 1971:

"You have been recognized as scholars and recognized as servants to the Church precisely by your scholarship. You deal with one of the most delicate areas of faith commitment, the very foundations of Christian life and thought. It is an area which the Church has always cherished, watched over with great solicitude, which the magisterium has again and again insisted belongs to itself in a special way. Yet you have gained a universal reputation for working scientifically, facing all the facts. You have made yourselves thoroughly acceptable to your colleagues of other faiths, while leaving no doubt about your loyalty to our own faith."

As Catholic physicians who have a loyalty and commitment to our faith, it is our duty toward our patients, profession and our God to debate and clarify the medical aspects of the human problems with which we are daily confronted. Hopefully, from these candid discussions will evolve some clarifications of our ethical obligations toward our patients, our family and society.

John P. Mullooly, M.D.
Editor

Letters to the Editor . . .

Praise for Linacre Forum

To the Editor:

Congratulations on your excellent performance as Editor of the Linacre.

The Federation can justly be proud of the forum of opinion it has in the pages of the Linacre.

Charles Bauda, MD
President-Elect
National Federation, Catholic
Physicians Guilds

"BIRTHRIGHT" VOLUNTEER AP- PLAUDS "LIFE" ARTICLES

To the Editor:

Our Birthright Agency would appreciate copies of any articles printed by you regarding abortion which have appeared in the "Linacre Quarterly".

We are sure they will be of great value in

counselling our clients who very often are poorly informed on the subject. Your November edition had two excellent articles regarding "Life" which we thoroughly enjoyed.

Mrs. Robert M. Higgins
Birthright Volunteer
Birthright-Monmouth County
Neptune, N.J.

UROLOGIST CRITICIZES PROHIBITIONS ON FERTILITY WORKUPS

To the Editor:

Your "From the Editor's Desk" in the August 1971 issue regarding controversial articles suggested to me that at this time a reassessment by Catholic physicians should be made of the present treatment of the Catholic infertile couple. Two areas of present prohibition are worthy of immediate re-examination:

- A. The diagnostic assessment of the infertile Catholic male.
- B. The utilization of artificial insemination, using the husband's semen.

A. At present, the only collection methods for semen for analysis from the Catholic husband are the following:

1. Post-coital extraction of semen from the wife's vagina, with guess-work being used for the factors of dilution and hostility of the vaginal secretions:

2. Examination of the post-coital urethral dribbles, which have been shown by Dr. Richard Amelar to be the poorest part of the ejaculate for sperm concentration:

3. Use of the perforated condom, a method that seems to render many Catholic males temporarily impotent, and which is of dubious theological validity.

I propose that theological re-examination of masturbation for the purpose of medical therapy of a child-desiring Catholic couple should have very high priority.

C. In the case of the medically-fertile but in practice infertile couple, where deposition of spermatozoa in the cervical canal does not seem to occur, the use of the Doyle spoon seems to be of little value.

I propose that an intermediary in the carriage of the husband's spermatozoa into the wife's uterine cavity does not really contravene any natural or moral law.

Given the right to collect the husband's semen for medical therapy (as in proposition A above), delivery of this semen to where he is unable to deliver it himself seems medically to be analogous to administering any sub-

stance to remedy a natural deficiency, or any nutriment where mal-absorption is the problem.

The present emphasis, due to the headlines of the times, is directed towards preservation of life once it is established in utero. Our many childless couples would prefer that some of this intense thought and argument be directed to the means of establishing life in utero.

Michael A. Walsh, M.D.
2922 Grand Concourse
Bronx, New York 10458

LINACRE HELPFUL IN NURSING SCHOOL

To The Editor

After reading the Letters to the Editor in your current issue I'd like to let you know that the Linacre Quarterly is very valuable in our nursing school library. We are particularly grateful to have so many fine articles on Abortion.

I will take advantage of any opportunities to recommend it to fellow librarians.

Sister Mary Gregory,
Librarian
Catholic Medical Center
School of Nursing Library
23-18 44th Drive
Long Island City
New York 11101