

The best kind of religion is that to be critical  
and to be correct.—Dostoevsky.

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## TIMELY ETERNALS

By Rt. Rev. Msgr. Peter M. H. Wynhoven  
Editor-in-Chief, Catholic Action of the South

### THE FAMILY PHYSICIAN

The doctor had gone through a terribly hard day. Besides his regular visits, office hours and new calls, he had assisted two mothers in "the valley of mothers and babies were doing well. He felt happy and proud over this, because the pair brought his record over the 2,000 mark. In his 40 years of tender care and skillful administration, he had not only three. But he felt so exhausted that night.

It was 1:00 o'clock when his tired head touched the pillow for the first time in 17 hours. At two-thirty, when he had sunk into sound sleep, the telephone by his bedside rang.

"Hello, is this Doctor Hickey?" a joyful voice inquired.

"Yes, ma'am."

"Well, Doctor, we are just so happy that I thought we should let you know; Mother passed the crisis half an hour ago, exactly as you predicted."

Yes, the doctor felt happy too; but this time a little selfishly, because it could have been another emergency call. The whole town and countryside are peopled with a family doctor's children. There are moments in their lives when he becomes more important to them than even father and mother. He shares their fears and their good fortune, their sorrows and their joys. He was at the bedside when they were born; he may be there to close their eyes for eternity. And if "our doctor" is not present at the wedding, the supreme happiness is marred a little by the wondering query, "Why he did not come?"

#### STANDS ALONE

Florence Fisher Parry's appraisal of the family doctor is truly descriptive: "Nothing can take his place—not priest nor minister, nor all the clinics that science can provide. There is a rapport and a confidence between him and his patient which has been known to accomplish miracles and restore to the breast of mothers babies about to die, and to the arms of lovers, beloveds turned back from death. For there is something

his life to the letter of the divine ideal.

#### ALWAYS WELCOME

As mere man, he enjoys those things for which the soul of man longs. He is welcome in every home he enters. The sight of him brings cheerfulness, stirs the lagging pulse, brightens the fading eye. The pride of legitimate pride is conquest is his, when he wins against odds, staying a fever, restoring energy, removing obstacles to health, throwing up breast works against the advance of disease, and snatching wounded bodies and ebbing life from the very grasp of death.

He prizes the confidence reposed in him. His ear will patiently and sympathetically listen to repentant hearts, uneasy hearts and sick hearts. We feel comforted that his advice is sought no more when no one else in the world is approached. It is a personal compliment to his wisdom, his trustworthiness, and the soundness of his counsel.

Medical science has made great strides in the last several decades. Its technical efficiency has increased by leaps and bounds. We are blessed today with specialists who have devoted their time to particular studies for which no family physician or general practitioner could ever find the time. But, all this advance in the medical art is slowly crowding out the all-round-competent family doctor. Although we have to accept this improvement as a blessing, still, from certain viewpoints, it may also be considered a calamity.

The good old doctor was to the family not only a physician but also a priest. He was just as much concerned about the soul's health as the physical welfare. He had to be, if he were in any way a believing man. A family would grow up under his very eyes; he was acquainted with the progress and the plight of every member; their ambitions, their failings and their secrets were often locked in his mind and heart. He felt a sacred obligation to interest himself in every turn of their fortune, in every path they followed. He always was ready to encourage, to warn or to advise.

### St. Jude Novena For Servicemen Set

At the National Shrine of St. Jude in Chicago, the Feasday Novena to the Patron of Difficult Cases will be for the youth of America in the Country's Service, that they may have heaven's protection, and early victory, and a safe return from the war fronts.

The Solemn Novena will open Oct. 23 and will close Oct. 31. Rev. Robert C. Hunter, S.V.D., will deliver the novena sermons. Father

Hunter is known as the foremost pulpit orator of the Divine Word Fathers, and has gained renown for his preaching as a member of the Mission Band of the Western Province.

The Claretian Mission Fathers are in charge of the National Shrine of St. Jude at 3208 E. 91st St., Chicago. All novena petitions sent in to the National Shrine will be placed on St. Jude's Altar close to the sacred reliquies of the Apostle.

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