

Christmas

MEANS

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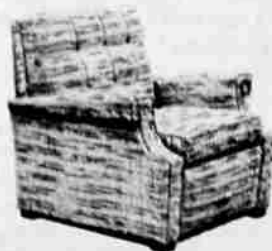
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WOMAN IN WHITE



As a young girl,
Elizabeth O'Brien
wanted to become
a nun or a doctor;
today she is both.

by K. C. Jerome

AS WE TRAVEL our individual roads through life, few of us are fortunate enough—or courageous enough—to serve both God and man. But that is the chosen path of an attractive, cheerful young woman whose name used to be Elizabeth O'Brien.

Today she is Sister Mary Thomas More. And besides being a nun of the Marist Order, she is a physician, serving as an interne at Bellevue Hospital in New York.

"I believe that also being a nun is the highest expression I can give to being a doctor," says Dr. More of her dual calling. "Most people only fulfill one goal in their lifetime. I'm trying to telescope two."

When the sister's training is completed, she expects to be sent for 15 years' duty in the South Pacific, probably the Solomon Islands. "The islanders know little of Christ or of His healing," says Dr. More. "The need is very great there."

The nun's two vocations seem to blend easily. Over her flowing white habit, she wears a physician's white jacket embroidered with the letters "D.H."—Department of Hospitals. Her nun's hood is easily taken for a nurse's cap. And from her neck usually hangs a stethoscope as well as a crucifix.

"Everybody accepts me as a doctor now," she explains, "but at first they took me for a nurse. One woman asked me if I was the dietitian!"

Combining her religious and medical obligations puts the slender, fair-skinned woman on a schedule which would exhaust many men. She's up early for a half-hour meditation in her room before going to the nearby Mt. Carmel Church for 6:30 Mass every morning. This is in addition to

