



In combining religious and medical duties, Sister Mary Thomas More follows a schedule which would exhaust most men. She expects to take up practice in the South Sea isles.

visiting the hospital chapel morning and evening, saying the rosary daily, plus about 45 minutes of other prayers. Meanwhile, tending the sick may keep the interne busy—and sleepless—for as long as 36 hours at a stretch.

"My favorite case," she recalls, "was the man who broke his arm one Sunday. It wasn't until three days later that he decided to come to the hospital for treatment. It was two in the morning and I'd just started to get some rest! Ah, well..."

Dr. More is the first nun to intern at Bellevue in the hospital's 200-year history, but she is the third member of her order to become a physician. There were no nun-doctors until 1933 when the Pope urged sisters to enter medicine to cope with problems of such countries as India where some women would not permit themselves to be touched by male doctors.

"Now the Holy Father wants more of us to go into the marketplace," she says. Already there are about 50 doctors among nuns of U.S. Catholic orders—more, incidentally, than there are among priests.

DR. MORE occupies a regular interne's room at the hospital, but in compliance with her vow of poverty, she has not decorated it or even equipped it with a radio. On occasional free week ends, she tries to visit the Marist House on nearby Staten Island to refresh her ties with her order, officially called the Missionary Sisters of the Society of Mary. And about once a month she is visited by her father, William J. O'Brien, a retired city employee who lives in Brooklyn, where she was born 28 years ago.

The doctor's mother died when she was a child, and a grandmother helped to raise her, a sister, and two brothers. "She al-

ways was a good girl," her father recalls, "obedient, well-behaved, and conscientious about her homework and things. She went to Mass frequently and never had to be told. She had quite a few friends, too, both boys and girls, and went to her share of dances and parties."

At St. Brendan's High School, the lively brown-eyed girl played varsity basketball, helped edit the school paper, and was elected to the scholastic honor society. From there she went to Fordham University for premedical training.

"For me, it became a choice between becoming a nun or becoming a doctor," she says. After completing her premedical training in 1951, she chose the Society of Mary and went to Framingham Center, Mass., to the Marist Mission Center there.

Elizabeth O'Brien then became Sister Mary Thomas More. The name is compounded of Mary, for the Marist Order, then the name of a saint, in this case Thomas More. He was British Lord Chancellor beheaded by King Henry VIII for adhering to the Church of Rome.

After completing her vows, the nun's superiors asked if she would like to study medicine at Marquette University. She "leapt at the chance" and received her degree last June.

For internship, she chose Bellevue because this municipal general hospital would provide the broad medical and surgical experience she desires. Eventually she hopes to specialize in chest and respiratory ailments.

In combining the religious and medical life, Mary Thomas More renders devotion to God and man with no question of divided fealty or zeal. As she puts it with a gentle smile that is characteristic, "Good medicine is good morals."

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