

DR. HARRY BLABER, SURGEON, 56, DIES

Catholic Lay Physician in
China in the 1930's—
Practiced in Brooklyn

Dr. Harry P. Blaber, surgeon and former head of the Roman Catholic Maryknoll medical missions in South China, died Friday in Brooklyn Hospital. He was 56 years old. His home and office were at 521 Fifty-ninth Street, Brooklyn.

Dr. Blaber graduated from St. Francis College and received his medical degree from Long Island College Hospital Medical School in 1928. After his internship at Brooklyn Hospital, he offered his services to the Catholic Foreign Mission Society of America, the Maryknoll order, in 1930 and went to China for five years.

One of the few Roman Catholic lay physicians then in the mission field, Dr. Blaber started a dispensary at Tung-on in South China. He also built up the Sacred Heart Hospital at Toishan, where he was in charge of the medical care given to 250 lepers at Sun-Wui, near Toishan.

In 1935 he returned to Brooklyn and married Miss Constance White, a nurse. With her, he returned to China early in 1936. Late the next year, when the Japanese attacked his area, Dr. Blaber left China and established his practice in Brooklyn. He had been on the staff of Victory Memorial Hospital there.

Dr. Blaber was said to have started his Tung-on dispensary with a bottle of mercurochrome and a roll of gauze bandage.

Surviving, besides his widow, are a daughter, Miss Patricia Ann Blaber; a sister, Miss Mary Blaber, and two brothers, Dr. Reginald Blaber, a Brooklyn physician, and Leo Blaber of Brooklyn.

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