

**Doctor Wins a Writ  
To Halt Suspension**

By M. A. FARBER

Special to The New York Times

JERSEY CITY, March 26—

A Superior Court judge here temporarily prevented Christ Hospital today from suspending the surgical privileges of Dr. Mario E. Jascavevich, who is under investigation in connection with the possible murder of nine or more patients with curare at another hospital a decade ago.

The judge, Frederick C. Kentz Jr., granted a temporary restraining order at the request of Dr. Jascavevich after the 48-year-old surgeon was suspended by Christ Hospital, where Dr. Jascavevich said he now

Continued on Page 42, Column 3

**Hospital Is Enjoined in Curare Inquiry**

Continued From Page 1, Col. 6

performs 90 percent of his operations.

The suspension came to light only today, although it had been made three days ago.

Judge Kentz ruled that Dr. Jascavevich's constitutional rights to due process had been violated by Christ Hospital because the institution had neither lodged charges against the surgeon nor given him a hearing on the suspension.

The judge said that "irreparable damage" would be done to Dr. Jascavevich's professional reputation if the suspension were allowed to stand now. A further hearing was scheduled for April 9, but Francis X. Kennelly, an attorney for Christ Hospital, indicated that he might seek a quicker resolution of the matter.

**'Under Great Strain'**

Discussing the reasons for the suspension during a recess in the court hearing, Mr. Kennelly said that Dr. Jascavevich was "under great strain and stress" as a result of the new investigation into the deaths at Riverdale Hospital in Oradell and had so indicated to other doctors at Christ Hospital.

The attorney said that officials of Christ Hospital continued to have very high res-

pect for Dr. Jascavevich, but were concerned about the effects that recent pressures might have on him during operations.

Dr. Jascavevich, who did not appear in court today, was represented by his new counsel, Ray A. Brown of Jersey City. Mr. Brown is regarded as one of the leading criminal lawyers in New Jersey.

Grand jury hearings on the "unusual or unexplained" death at Riverdell Hospital in 1965 and 1966 were started 10 days ago by Joseph C. Woodcock Jr., the Bergen County Prosecutor. Mr. Woodcock reopened the investigation of the case last January after an extensive inquiry into the deaths by The New York Times.

In recent weeks toxicologist have found curare in at least two of the five bodies exhumed by Mr. Woodcock and are studying the other bodies for any presence of the potentially lethal respiratory depressant. The drug had not been prescribed for any of the patients whose deaths at Riverdell became "suspicious."

Dr. Jascavevich, who was the chief surgeon at Riverdell from 1963 to early 1967, has denied any wrongdoing in connection with the deaths. Eighteen vials of curare, most of them empty or nearly so, were found in his locker at Riverdell after the deaths, but the surgeon said in

1966 that he had been suing the drug in research on dying dogs in Jersey City. No one, he said, had ever seen him do the experiments.

**Background Described**

In court papers today, Mr. Brown summarized Dr. Jascavevich's professional background, but did not note his association with Riverdell. The surgeon's lawyer said that, among other of Dr. Jascavevich's distinctions, he was a fellow of the New York Academy of Sciences. A spokesman for the academy said that Dr. Jascavevich was a dues-paying member of the academy, but not one of it elected fellows.

In a curriculum vitae submitted by Dr. Jascavevich in connection with a pending malpractice suit against him, the surgeon recently listed "fellowship" in the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Federation for Clinical Research and the American Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation.

Spokesmen for the latter two organizations said that Dr. Jascavevich was a member of the groups, but that the organizations did not have fellows. A spokesman for the American Association for the Advancement of Science said Dr. Jascavevich was a member of the association, but not one of its fellows.