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# SOCIAL DISEASES

A NATIONAL MENACE



by

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SEXOLOGIST

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# Source and Carriers of Venereals

A rememberable number of years ago a portion of our Southern States became a veritable hot-bed for Malaria Fever. The best efforts of the physicians of that time proved unavailing against the ravages of this malady. Death took its annual toll of thousands of victims and the disease took on the propensities of a plague. Not until the discovery was made that a single species of mosquito, the Anopheles, was responsible for the carrying of all malarial germs and war was declared on those mosquitos, was any headway made against Malaria. Scientists recognized the fact that the only successful way to exterminate these carriers was to eliminate their breeding grounds, in other words to go back to the *source* of the problem. A wholesale clearing of the swamps resulted in the immediate checking of the disease and a continuation of this policy has reduced Malaria from a scourge to a negligible number of scattered cases. But *they attacked the plague at its source.*

Let us stop and apply the same scientific reasoning to the venereal situation. Everyone recognizes these dread social diseases as a scourge, and a far worse one than Malaria ever was. If we are ever to stop the ravages and spread of this terrible human plague, *we must go back to the source.*

It is an admitted fact that the greatest carrier of venereals is the prostitute. The first thought then is: "Let's rid the country of prostitution." And this has been attempted by

closing up all the houses of ill-fame in many of our cities and states. But what has been the result? By closing the legalized congregating places for these women, we have NOT done away with the women, nor have we diminished prostitution; we have simply changed its complexion by causing these women to scatter to the four corners of each city and state, taking up their abode in the hotels, apartment houses, and residential sections and co-mixing and co-mingling with our mothers, wives, sweethearts and daughters with perfect immunity.

No longer subject to any municipal regulation and with no requirement as to bodily cleanliness, many of these women either ignorantly or wilfully are broadcasting the germs of gonorrhoea and syphilis among the ranks of their consorts.

The chief factors that influence young girls to enter the public mart, where souls are sold for a farthing, are these: An earlier misstep for which society has shown an unwillingness to forgive; a disappointment in love that causes life to hold out no promise of real happiness; poverty, with no preparation for anything other than the most menial of labor with which to earn a living; desertion by husband or sweetheart with no means of support; loneliness in a strange city with no legitimate work to be found; these and many others are contributing factors but they do not constitute the CAUSE of prostitution.

The prostitute is a result and not a cause. Prostitutes are *made* not *born*. And most of them are more sinned against than sinning. The entire evil of prostitution is man-made and a colossal monument to his desire for promiscuous sex-relations.

You show me *one* woman who is a prostitute by choice, and I'll show you a hundred that are

what they are because some man or men at a critical time proved to be no man at all.

Granted that there are exceptions to the rule, the fact still remains that "*The source of prostitution lies in man's demand for gratification of sex desires outside of wedlock.*"

If space permitted me to recount some of the hundreds of personal histories related to me by these unfortunates, I am sure that at least some of my readers would agree with me that it is high time we men were extending a hand of sympathy to these poor creatures instead of pointing a self-righteous finger of scorn at them or further adding to their degradation and shame by contributing to their delinquency.

When a man tells me that he has contracted a social disease and commences to curse some poor wanton woman, although anxious for his sake, and that of his posterity, to see a cure effected, I cannot but despise the spirit that prompts him to lay the blame for his condition on the shoulders of the weaker sex, when it was his own lust, ignorance, and carelessness that was directly responsible.

Present conditions are sufficient proof that closing the red-light districts does not do away with prostitution any more than closing the saloons stopped the sale and use of alcoholic drinks. In fact, many authorities in the field of Social Science declare that both the closing of the restricted districts and the prohibition of legalized dispensaries of liquors are not only ineffective but highly detrimental to society.

Readers—if any strides are to be made against the harlot as a carrier of venereal disease, we must get back to the source. Great tirades are directed against the prostitute from pulpit and public rostrum but the only response is their own echo. What would the doctors of two decades ago have accomplished in their warfare against Malaria had they directed their attack

against individual swarms of adult mosquitos? Neither will we accomplish anything in the curbing of the spread of venereals by directing an attack against the harlot; for if every strumpet were to die today, the spread of venereal disease would go on practically unabated. Why, you ask? Because, I repeat, the prostitute is a result and not a cause. She is a carrier and not the source of the spread of venereals. The source is man's promiscuity and this brings us to the consideration of another big factor in promiscuity and the spread of these diseases and that is "The Amateur" or charity woman.

### **Amateurs or Charity Women**

In referring to this class, I am entirely excluding that big group of women who are finding conjugal happiness outside of wedlock in some form of morganatic marriage or as some man's mistress. Since this practice involves a moral rather than a physiological problem, no time will be devoted to its discussion.

But because of the enormity of the proportions which the ranks of Amateurs have assumed, and in the light of a rigid investigation and of consultations with many physicians throughout the country, I believe that real stress should be given to a warning as to the dangers of careless co-habitation with this class of women.

The unprecedented growth in the number of "Amateurs" in the United States during the last decade is due to three leading causes: First, The desire for self-expression in modern youth; Second, The closing of the red-light districts; Third, The late World War.

### **Self-Expression**

The desire for self-expression is what Judge Ben B. Lindsay, internationally known Juvenile Judge of Denver, Colorado, so aptly terms as "The Revolt of Modern Youth." The breaking

of the bonds of ignorance in sex matters, in which the young have been wont to be kept by prudish and mock-modest parents, has been most pronounced in the present generation. If one were able to truthfully chronicle the events of the night life of every girl of the "flapper" age in any average city, the adult population of that city (excepting, of course, those of the older male element who act as consorts to these girls) would be dumb-founded at the length to which the pendulum of individual privileges has swung. Ignorance and Fear, the safeguards of former generations of youths, have given place to full knowledge of sex matters.

### **Closing the Red-Light Districts**

The second cause of the growth in numbers of the Amateurs is the closing of the Red-Light Districts.

Regardless of whether one believes in the legalized restricted district or not, it must be admitted that the closing of these houses has created for every city a real problem in protecting its innocent women from insult. And with all due respect to Dame Fashion, the profuse use of cosmetics and the extreme exposure of women's lower extremities in vogue at the present time make it impossible for the "masher" to tell who are the clean women and who the "professionals" and "Amateurs" with the result that many women innocently following the extreme dictates of style are openly inviting an insult from this class of men.

### **The World War a Factor**

The third contributing factor in increasing the number of charity women was the late World War.

Let me quote from the Honorable Dr. Otto May, late Secretary of the English National Coun-



cil for Combating Venereal Disease. In his address delivered to thousands of military officers and men, Dr. May, after discussing the dangers of cohabiting with prostitutes, says, in part:

"It is pretty apparent that women of this class (prostitutes) are likely, sooner or later, to become infected with venereals, and that men who have dealings with them are running considerable risk. That, of course, is quite obvious, but what many men fail to realize is, that the risk is quite as great, or even greater, in the case of another class of women altogether—the so-called 'Amateur.' By this I mean the girls to be found in every town, in the streets, cinemas, tea-shops, and other places; shop-girls, servant-girls, factory-girls, and so on; girls who are willing to go with soldiers, not for money, but from other motives—curiosity, excitement, perhaps even from a mistaken feeling that they are 'doing their bit' by comforting the loneliness of a few poor soldier boys!

"Now, many of these girls, in many cases quite young 'flappers,' I'm sorry to say, are infected with disease—disease which has not, of course, originated in them but which they have caught from other men. And many of them are so ignorant that they don't even realize that anything is amiss (because women may be dangerously infected and yet suffer no pain and very little discomfort), and they go on passing the infection from man to man in a light-hearted way. Of course, I don't pretend that *every* girl of this sort is infected, but I defy any man to say by any method in his power, which are and which are not; and, if he does have sexual dealings with girls of this class, he may find that though not called upon to pay in money, he often has to pay the price by catching disease."

In view of the fact that in promiscuity, the

chief danger to man's sex-health lies in the probability of contracting one of the venereal diseases, and, inasmuch as this treatise is an informative and not a moralizing one in its content, let us turn our attention without further parley to the two dread forms of venereals: Gonorrhoea and Syphilis.

In the estimation of the writer, every man should be the self-constituted custodian of his own health. No one else is so vitally interested in the care and conservation of one's own anatomy as one's self. This being true it certainly behoves any man who is meeting strange women in sex-intercourse to take every precaution against possible infection. In war times the soldiers were required to use the precautionary method of the Prophelaxis. This is a much safer method than the use of the condom, or rubber, and when used intelligently by a sober man, in addition to a complete washing of all of the external sex anatomy in strong soap-suds, has proven one of the best known methods of avoiding venereal diseases.

Of course, the only absolutely safe method of protecting one's self from infection, is the complete avoidance of any relations whatsoever with women outside of wedlock. But because so many men feel that Venereals are not so bad after all, and are willing to take their chances along with the rest, let me ask every reader who is at all promiscuous to read the following chapter very carefully.

# Gonorrhoea and Syphilis

The two chief venereal diseases of an infectious character are Gonorrhoea and Syphilis. A third, called Chancroid, or soft Chancre, while nauseating and frequently painful, responds readily to treatment and is seldom very serious.

Too much cannot be said by way of warning against contracting Gonorrhoea (Clap) or Syphilis (Pox). Both of these diseases, especially Gonorrhoea, are very prevalent among prostitutes, clandestine women (those who augment their earnings from regular work by going out with men), and amateurs (girls who give themselves sexually to men for the enjoyment of the act). Reliable medical authorities tell us that "All sporting women have venereal disease some of the time and some of them all of the time." And while many men avoid a professional prostitute, or take precautionary measures against infection when going out with them, very little thought is given precaution with the clandestine or the amateur. Many cases of infection thus come as a surprise to the victim, because he felt secure, and, in many instances the girl was unaware of having any disease at all. The prevailing ignorance among girls and women, added to the slight discomfort caused by Gonorrhoea in its early stages, is responsible for widespread infection among men who consort with these types of women.

The only absolute precaution against venereals is to let promiscuous women entirely alone. And remember—a girl who will meet you on a sex-basis for any other reason than intended marriage, will meet, and has met other men on the same basis. And this promiscuousness leads sooner or later to the contraction of disease.

They then become the innocent or wilful carriers of these germs. It is hard to argue with a strongly sexed man, especially at the time he is in the throes of passion, but if he will stop and take a glimpse into the future and realize what grave risks he is running, usually his own best interests will assert themselves and he will refuse to chance the great sacrifice involved, should he be unfortunate (as many are) in contracting a disease, and he will refuse to pay so great a price for so momentary a pleasure. In the case of a married man, it is not alone the personal risk he runs but the danger of communicating the disease to his wife before he realizes that he is infected. And this has meant untold agony and thousands of operations for unsexing innocent women. Add to this the probability of bringing into the world an abnormal child and one can see the consequences of ignorance and carelessness.

A brief explanation of Gonorrhoea and Syphilis follows:

## Gonorrhoea

Gonorrhoea is not "just a little worse than a bad cold." Ask any physician and he will tell you that it is more to be feared than Syphilis. Any man who finds the unmistakable evidence of Gonorrhoea, should not wait a minute. He should consult a reputable physician. And the *best* is the *cheapest*, no matter what fee is charged. It is one thing to dry up Gonorrhoea and another to cure it. *More cases go uncured than cured.* Men, if you become infected—don't let false pride or shame deter you a second—safety first! *you see a doctor immediately* and follow his instructions to the letter. Your whole future health and happiness depend on your heeding this warning.

## Symptoms

The symptoms will show up in from two to ten days after infection. The penis will begin to itch and will usually redden slightly around the urethral opening. Then follows a slight grayish discharge which quickly deepens to a golden or greenish yellow and usually flows quite freely. Urination is accompanied by burning or smarting of the urethra. If properly attended the pain and discomfort will soon diminish and gradually disappear. All visible traces of the infection will probably disappear within four to seven weeks, but this does not insure a cure. A thorough examination of the secretions and conditions of the prostate, vesicles, ampulla, in fact of the sexual anatomy is necessary to prove the presence or absence of any latent germs or pus pockets. And it is the terrible after-effects, when a man thinks he is cured, that have robbed so many men of manhood, self-respect and desire to live at a very premature period in life.

If unattended, Gonorrhoea will become chronic. It is then called Gleet. While in this stage the disease may not show its presence continually, nevertheless the carrier is infectious to others, and should abstain from all intercourse. A *real* man will do this, others should be forced to.

Some of the many results of Gonorrhoeal infection are: Premature loss of manhood; Stricture, making urination difficult and painful and often terminating fatally; Gonorrhoeal Rheumatism, very painful and impervious to curative measures; Prostatic Atrophy and other disorders, all very dangerous; Bladder and Kidney infection, and many other disorders, all of which shear a man of his real manhood, often by the time he has reached his early forties.

## Syphilis

Syphilis, or Pox, is quite different in symptoms, course, and after-effects. It may show up in eight or ten days or the period of incubation may last for a month or two. If contracted by sexual contact, it will appear first as a sore on the glans penis called a hard chancre or primary lesion. This takes the form of an ulcer, a hard pimple, or a wart-like scale. Because it looks much like a soft chancre, many men allow it to go unattended, with dire results. In this stage Syphilis is easily cured if given expert attention. If neglected, the chancre will voluntarily disappear only to be followed in thirty to sixty days by the second stage. This stage is marked by a breaking out on the body and limbs and occasionally on the face, accompanied by sore throat. In this period the disease is very contagious and can be communicated by kissing as well as from intercourse. The third stage may appear at any time after the second, frequently delaying its appearance for years. In this stage the attack takes many forms. It may appear as unsightly ulcers on any part of the body. It may attack bone and cartilage and eat away portions of the face or skull. Heart trouble among middle-aged people is frequently traceable to Syphilitic origin. More frequently it attacks the nervous system and causes insanity, softening of the brain, locomotor ataxia, and other serious nervous disorders. Neglected Syphilis invariably means suffering and anguish to the individual and in married men is often visited on children and grandchildren in horrible form.

No man who discovers a sore on his penis, should take any chances on neglect. Give the sore the benefit of the doubt and consult a reliable physician. No quacks, patent medicines or home cures—YOU SEE A DOCTOR!

## Should Venereals Get Married?

Moralists answer this always in the negative, but this theory seems untenable. However, to every man who has ever had either of these diseases, it should be imperative for his own sake and for the sake and love of his intended wife and possible children, that he have a most rigid examination made by specialists in this field of scientific research and let their findings determine, rather than his own passionate desires, his qualifications for this sacred trust. A man's very manhood should prompt such a course of action.

### WARNING!

A man's four worst enemies, when he finds himself infected with a venereal disease, are: The quack doctor, who terms himself a specialist for men; Patent remedies and home cures; Would-be friends who constitute themselves as capable advisors and prescribers; Man's own pride and shame.

His best friend at this critical time is his **PHYSICIAN**, the reputable doctor who has made a thorough study of venereals and their after-effects and is more interested in effecting a cure than in receiving the fee that is his just recompense.

**MEN: A GOOD DOCTOR IS THE ONLY FRIEND WHO CAN REALLY HELP YOU IF YOU CONTRACT ONE OF THESE INFECTIOUS DISEASES. CONSULT HIM, FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS IMPLICITLY, AND STAY WITH HIM UNTIL YOU ARE CURED!**

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