

used by the patient, and the prohibition of the nurse from doing other work, at least, without the most careful disinfection of her hands.

In this connection a summary of the cause of typhoid in 206 cases given by Herbert Peck, Medical Health Officer of Chesterfield is interesting:

SUMMARY OF CASES.

Soil infection	9 cases equal to	4.37 of the whole.
Drain effluvia	21 " "	10.20 " "
Pollution of watercourse	9 " "	4.37 " "
Manure	6 " "	2.91 " "
Water	1 case	0.50 " "
Importation	25 cases	12.13 " "
Sick-room infection	28 " "	13.50 " "
Several possible causes	69 " "	33.50 " "
No ascertainable cause	38 " "	18.44 " "

Total..... 206 cases.

I think a good deal more than we do, could be done in the prevention of disease by enforcing more rigidly prophylactic measures in such diseases as tuberculosis typhoid and pneumonia. If this be true in these diseases it is equally true with the venereal diseases. The sooner the profession wakes up to the fact that a person infected with a venereal disease is a menace to society the better for the community. Why should not a person so infected be a subject for State control as much as a person infected with typhoid? Is it because he is not likely to do the same amount of evil, or is the evil not so far reaching? The appalling sequellae, especially in women, the result of gonorrhoeal infection; the awful consequences of syphilitic infection would have stirred up medical men to do more to lessen these scourges except that they have been opposed by interests so many and so diverse.

Do we thoroughly appreciate the importance of syphilis as an etiological factor in disease. Alfred W. Campbell of the Rainhill Asylum in the *British Medical* of last month shows clearly that syphilis is the cause of general paralysis. He speaks of general paralysis as one of the terrible scourges of England, and declares it would disappear if syphilis could be stamped out. Gowers and Erb make similar statements concerning tabes dorsalis. What part of the body does not suffer in this way? The mortality among children born of syphilitic parents is very high. Of children born of syphilitic fathers 38 per cent. die, while if both are infected, 78 per cent. die. From 30 per cent. to 40 per cent. of syphilitic women abort. It may not be possible to deal with venereal diseases as with other infectious diseases, but something should be done to protect, not only the guilty, but the many mothers and children whose lives are blighted, more by this disease than by all other infectious diseases put together. Can nothing be done by us except by the license and inspection system? If so, then let us have that, for one thing is certain that while the contagious disease Act was in operation in England between the years 1864 and 1883, the amount of syphilis was markedly diminished. But since the repeal of this Act in 1884, syphilis reverted, in the army at least, in its original severity and extent to what it was before the Act was passed. It seems to me that much could be done by