

said recently: "It may be assumed that prostitution is the main source of infection." He adds that in his own practice, out of 1329 cases of gonorrhoea 74 per cent were infected by prostitutes. Dr. Wm. T. Belfield, of Chicago, says: "Every prostitute, public or private, acquires venereal disease sooner or later, hence all of them are diseased some of the time and some of them all the time. The man who patronizes them risks his health at every exposure." Dr. Ludwig Weiss, of New York, affirms that "Prostitution must be regarded as the fountain head from which venereal diseases originate. In comparison with this all other modes of propagation are nil. In order to stamp out venereal diseases absolutely prostitution must be annihilated first; no prostitution, no venereal disease."

Still another conclusion reached by medical science on this question is that the attempt to regulate prostitution aggravates the spread of disease. It has been urged that medical inspection can be made a guarantee against contagion, but this opinion is overwhelmingly discredited.

The reasons are the following:

(a) The difficulty of securing proper medical examination. The best physicians will not stoop to such practice. The inmates of such places use every pretext to avoid such examination. For instance one authority states that more than 50 per cent of the medical examinations which ought to have been made on the 4,000 women under regulation in Berlin during the years 1888 to 1891 were in fact neglected.

(b) Only women are examined. A prostitute may acquire the disease immediately after she is certified as healthy, or one herself healthy may pass on the disease from client to client.

(c) It is impossible for the examiner to determine in many cases whether prostitutes are infected or not. Dr. Prince A. Morrow, a great authority on such matters, says: "NOW THE LAW, IN REQUIRING A PROMPT REPORT FROM THE EXAMINING PHYSICIAN AS TO WHETHER OR NOT A PROSTITUTE IS DISEASED, DEMANDS WHAT MEDICAL SCIENCE AND SKILL ARE UTTERLY UNABLE TO FURNISH. The vast majority of infections originate from chronic or latent gonorrhoea. The testimony of all specialists is concurrent on this point, that in these cases it is impossible to determine with certainty the presence or absence of contagious elements." A physician of our own province who is medical examiner in one of the segregated districts admitted that it was impossible to determine whether a prostitute was really free from disease or not. And the general medical testimony is that a certificate issued after such examination and on such grounds is worse than worthless.

(d) Medical inspection encourages men to frequent brothels with a promise of immunity which is illusory, hence it facilitates the spread of disease. The experience of Breslau as described by Dr. Stanislas Lakowski proves this. "The method of regulation was introduced in Breslau in a very scientific and Prussian manner, that means with military regulation. Every prostitute was brought before the Department of Health, and if the disease was not detected she received a certificate that she was well. The following year there was 13 per cent more gonorrhoea in Breslau than before the system was established. Why? Because every man asked for the certificate, and if he found it correct he assumed that there was no danger, and he got infected. The main point is that the examination does not prove anything." In Christiania, Norway, on the other hand, after the abolition of regulation, syphilis declined in frequency. The same is true in London, Bloch affirms, and the reason he gives in both cases is that men, now aware of the danger, keep away from prostitutes.