

Q. Yes?—A. I would say the Wasserman reaction is positive in a very large proportion of congenital cases.

Q. And what is your opinion of a sworn declaration by an aspirant of marriage, a male aspirant, without regard to it?—A. I do not think it would be any good. The reason I say that is that in my experience a large proportion of syphilitics have either no symptoms or very slight symptoms for years, and they may quite reasonably be expected to be unaware of their trouble. In a great many hospitals we are doing routine blood examinations, and I would say in 35 per cent of the cases of syphilis detected in this way the man is unaware of the fact he has the disease—a good 35 per cent.

Q. Unaware that they have it?—A. They may be unaware that they ever have had it. That is not commonly known, but it is true.

Q. Take the case of 100 young men at 25 years of age, all of them syphilitic. What proportion of that 100 young men would have contracted syphilis through sexual intercourse?

Hon. Mr. DANIEL: What is that? Did you ask what proportion of the 100 contracted syphilis through sexual intercourse?

*By the Chairman:*

Q. Yes?—A. That is a rather difficult question to answer, but I would say tentatively 90 per cent.

Q. 90 per cent?—A. Yes.

Q. In your experience, Doctor, is there any substantial proportion of the other cases that are not contracted through sexual intercourse, being the result of professional duties in the medical profession?—A. Yes, there are some. Before the War the late Dr. Strathy and I were working together, and we had been consulted by 26 physicians at that time who had contracted syphilis—innocent syphilis—from the pursuit of their profession.

Q. Outside of that, the spreading of syphilis is due to kissing, or using articles that have been used by others?—A. Yes, I have seen it from kissing, by using someone else's pipe, or from a cup.

Q. Would that be five per cent of the outside cases?—A. No more than that.

Q. Perhaps less than that?—A. Yes, perhaps less than that.

*By Hon. Mr. Bourque:*

Q. It comes out by sore spots?—A. Yes, as a rule it does.

*By Hon. Mr. Daniel:*

Q. The contracting of syphilis by kissing, could that happen, unless there was some lesion in the mouth or lips or tongue, some open sore?—A. No, a lesion may be very slight. A thing which struck me about syphilis has been the number of cases in which there is no history of a primary sore. I would imagine there has been a sore, but it has been so slight that it has not been noticed.

Q. A primary sore?—A. Yes.

*By the Chairman:*

Q. You are more conversant with public opinion in Ontario than you would be, perhaps, with the Province of Quebec. How would such legislation be received by the public of Ontario? I know that is a big question but you are in a position to let us know more perhaps, than any man, because you have been in contact with the population of Ontario in the performance of your own duties.—A. I believe that carefully designed legislation would be supported by the public. It would have to be carefully arranged.