

pared this book. To make them widely available the United States Public Health Service has published a large edition and is sending it out to the teachers and leaders of the people—particularly the clergymen with their wonderful opportunities for warning, comforting, and advising.

"The plan was born with the war. Those high in authority were prompt to see the need to forestall the debauching and disease-breeding conditions which were wont to arise in the neighbourhood of camps and follow in the trail of armies.

"The problem was attacked with vigor. Commissions on Training Camp Activities were established by the War and Navy Departments. They co-operated with the Surgeons General of the Army and Navy and Public Health Service in keeping conditions wholesome around the camps and training stations. Liquor and prostitution were suppressed in wide zones around places of training. Red-light districts were closed. Healthful recreation was made possible in town and in camps. Athletics, books, music, and dances were arranged for. The life of the soldier was made as normal as camp life and rigorous training would allow.

"But this was not all. The soldier himself was taught the dangers of venereal diseases and the advantages of a continent life, through lectures, exhibits, stereopticon slides, and most vividly by motion pictures.

"The civilians living near army camps and in communities engaged in war industries were bombarded with appeals for co-operation, and they usually gave it unstintingly. Clinics were established and hospital beds provided for the treatment of venereal diseases, even under quarantine when that was necessary to protect the public health. The United States Public Health Service and the Red Cross maintained venereal disease clinics in extra-cantonment areas for the purpose of cutting down the incidence of venereal disease by curing the sick, and in this way reducing the health hazard of the soldiers.

"For soldiers who had become infected, or who had been exposed, prompt and efficient treatment was provided by the army. Soldiers in the infectious stages of venereal diseases were kept in camp as an added protection to the civilian community.

"In these ways much disease was prevented, but the draft army soon provided some revealing figures that called for different efforts. It was found that most of the cases of venereal diseases among our soldiers were contracted before the men came into camp. In fact, over five-sixths of the venereal disease treated in the army in America up to the time of the armistice was acquired before the boys put on the uniform. This evidence showed that the environment of the home town was more dangerous to the health of young men of draft age than the carefully guarded surroundings of the camp.

"And then began the fight to protect the soldier of anticipated future drafts. The campaign had to be carried to all communities, whether or not they were near army camps. State boards of health widened their activities. Congress recognized the problem and created a Division of Venereal Diseases in the Public Health Service, and also an Inter-Departmental Social Hygiene Board to correlate the venereal disease work of the War, Navy, and Treasury Departments. Over four million dollars were appropriated to carry out measures for control by the government and to assist the states in financing the work being initiated by their boards of health.