

if all syphilitic children should thus fail of life, than be born with an inheritance which so often proves such a curse.

The case of a man is quoted, who, in early life, had severe syphilis destroying his palate, of whose nine children two were idiots, two deaf and dumb, and two died in infancy.

Thus the army of innocents swells in size and pleads for the restriction of the disease, which, it is now believed, may sometimes be inherited to the third generation, and we know that it has at times decimated our Indian tribes and wrought unspeakable havoc in Russia, in the Hawaiian Islands, and elsewhere. The individual with syphilis, is not only likely to communicate the disease in marriage relations, but is also likely to transmit the taint to the offspring. He is likewise a constant menace to society by virtue of the contagious character of the disease. Fully one-tenth of the cases reported at skin clinics are of syphilitic origin.

It is a disease worthy of the most serious consideration by the physician and sanitarian. It stands second to none in pathological importance. The fact that in so large a proportion of cases it happens to be communicated through sexual contact and in no great share of these from unchaste venereal relations, by no means warrants its relegation to a class of affections the very mention of which is to be tabooed in good society.

Prophylaxis relates to the individual protection of the individual and to public measures or the legal control of syphilis.

Individual safety will result from a better and more widespread knowledge on the part of the profession and the laity, of the manifestations of syphilis, its dangers, and the modes by which the disease has been transmitted.

The following is taken from Dr. Osler:—

Irregular intercourse has existed from the beginning of recorded history, and unless man's nature wholly changes (and of this we can have no hope)—will continue.

Resisting all attempts at solution, the social evil remains the great blot upon our civilization and inextricably blended with it, is the question of the prevention of syphilis.

Personal purity is the prophylaxis which we, as physicians, are especially bound to advocate. Continence may be a hard condition, to some harder than others, but it can be borne, and it is our duty to urge this lesson upon young and old who seek our advice in matters sexual. Certainly, it is better, as St. Paul says; to marry than to burn, but if the former is not feasible, there are other altars than those of