

some part of the
 ing the disease
 h, contact with
 the mouth will
 disease by inter-
 the conditions
 body. Unless
 pens in certain
 agent in mys-
 the infection

a third factor
 infected body,
 the so-called
 at try to gain
 g well people
 y very minor
 and chancroid.
 ble—at least
 a may run a
 last analysis,
 syphilis and
 uished from
 are increases
 s essentially
 s. Syphilis
 eeing power
 transmitted
 and person
 potato, the
 hese germs
 unfavourable
 f vice and
 ow. Corre-
 etard their
 favourable.
 ble to the
 es not an
 a innocent
 ral habits
 nt among
 ontagious
 e title of
 or sin.

ission of
 oist sur-
 genitalia,
 eck from
 infected

diaper is just as much syphilis or gonorrhœa as the sexually transmitted type that so completely occupies the horizon of popular misconception. Dry materials do not transmit these diseases, nor does infection with them tend to follow invariably upon casual contacts. The germ of gonorrhœa will not grow as a rule upon the skin, while that of chancroid will, and that of syphilis may if the conditions are otherwise favourable. Door knobs, the walls of rooms, linen and blankets that have been washed, for example, do not harbour them. Mild antiseptics usually destroy them. Yet there is about them, and about the germ of syphilis especially, an uncanny versatility. Only too often, where every precaution has been taken they manage to get a foothold through some trivial slip, and where they are least expected, they appear. In fact, it is too often those ignorant of facts and risks alike who are betrayed in the sacred intimacies of life, instead of in its unworthy moments. The human genital infections are parts of a biological problem, not a moral issue. Dourine, a disease of the horse which, while caused by another germ than syphilis, has a remarkable resemblance to it in its manifestations and its sexual transmission, can hardly be conceived of by any reasonable person as a special device for guarding that animal's moral life. Yaws, the twin brother of syphilis in man, a tropical disease so like it in every respect, even to the germ causing it, that it might almost be called syphilis, has not developed the unsavoury reputation of a "venereal" disease. Larger considerations such as these soon disabuse even the prejudiced of the idea that there is moral value in the genital infections and that they are needed to safeguard us from license. They are dangerous contagious diseases. Their value to mankind as a source of inspiration and uplift is nil. Their cost in undeserved wretchedness, in innocence put to torture, in physical and spiritual degradation, is immeasurable. An enlightened conception of duty to the public health demands that we blot them out.