

HC901  
C5  
no. 0291  
C2

## THE ETHICAL PROBLEMS UNDER- LYING THE SOCIAL EVIL

---

BY PETER H. BRYCE, M.A., M.D., CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER  
DEPARTMENT OF IMMIGRATION, OTTAWA.

---

IN complying with the request of your Society that I address you on some topic appropriate to its objects, I have considered how best I could compress into a short paper some remarks which might be of practical value, when volumes have been written without in any degree exhausting the subject. This is, of course, due to the fact that in the term "ethical" is included the whole attitude of man toward Life, as exemplified in his every word and act.

What, then, do we mean by the word "moral" or "ethical"? Essentially it means: pertaining to those qualities which distinguish man as a moral being and which relate to his habits and modes of thought and action as distinct from the lower animals. The status of a nation is essentially measured by the ethical plane upon which the great majority of its people are to be found. That of Canadians will be measured by the quality of our acts, personal, social and political, which gives character to our people as a whole. Where, then, regarding such, shall we begin—with the individual or with the nation? Surely with the individual, since Society is but a microcosm, made up of its units, combined into a living whole. Shall we start with the child at birth? Surely even prior to this, for in the child is to be found the germ of all qualities, physical and mental, of its parents, and even grandparents. Clearly then the qualities of the parents and the sanitary environment in its broadest sense of the mother are of inestimable

---

"An address delivered at an open meeting of The Canadian Purity Education Association, Toronto, by Dr. Peter H. Bryce, Ottawa, Superintendent of Immigration."