

lip. Her lover was found free of syphilis and the recorder states she had not been kissed by another man for months. Ritual circumcision has frequently been followed by innoculation. Dr. Rust in 1805, found a number of children in a Jewish institute with chancre of the penis. He observed that the disease was confined to the male children and that their mothers and attendants were unaffected. He concluded the sores must come from the circumcision act, and watched the man who performed the ceremony; after excision he placed the wounded part in his mouth previous to dusting on a drying powder, and, on examination, his mouth was found full of mucous patches.

From what has been said it is readily understood that syphilis is a disease that inflicts great injury upon the public health, for it imperils not only those who have been guilty of sexual transgression but also those who are quite innocent. Not only does this infection occur in the daily intercourse and occupations of life, but also in the most varied relations, in the care of children, in industrial pursuits and in professional callings. Syphilis from marriage, or marital syphilis, stands prominent in the innocent acquiring of the disease. While men occasionally acquire it in lawful wedlock it is principally the wives who suffer from the sins of their husbands, before or after marriage, and on them falls a large share of the burden of innocent syphilis. Fournier, the great French authority, concludes that fully twenty-five per cent. of all females affected with syphilis acquired it honestly in lawful wedlock relations, and among the married females in his private practice in seventy-five per cent. the disease was unmistakably traced to the husband.

Surely then there is something in the plea that some measures should be taken to prevent the wholesale infection of those innocent victims of marital syphilis. But if this aspect of the subject seems dark, that of hereditary syphilis is yet darker and calls even more strenuously for relief.

The following is taken from the records of births of syphilitic children at the Moscow Hospital from 1860-1870. During those years there were 2,002 births and 1,425 deaths, or seventy-one per cent. of the children born there of syphilitic parents, died.

If, however, the effects of the disease were limited only to the destruction in the newborn or in the products of conception, there would be strong reasons for the introduction of measures to check the spread of the disease, from its loss to the State, but this is only a portion of the ills wrought in connection with generation, and it would be better