

## THE ANTIVENEREAL CAMPAIGN

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The Venereal Evil is not one of recent birth : distinguished theorists, learned and capable, have discussed concerning the remote origin of this plague: some of these, traced its origin to Africa, others to Asia, and still others do not fear to contend that America was the initial site, where the companions of Christopher Columbus were first infected, after America itself had been syphilized through China, which country has been found to be infected from time unknown. Whatever may be the truth of these theories, our predecessors who, realizing this evil, paved the way and invoked Government intervention in eradicating this "leper of our times", and whose names will long live in Medical History are: Parent-Duchatelet and Michel Levy. They unfortunately were preaching in a desert. Such is human nature: the thunder of unusual epidemics tinges it with terror, when it familiarizes itself with slow pests : what an uproar marked the epidemic of influenza in 1918? What a distressing silence regarding venereal disease, infinitely more fatal?

It is true that these diseases are said to be dishonestly merited. Yes, Gentlemen, as the result of misinformation, there are legions of people who hold this opinion; yet, it has been proven, based on reliable statistics that all the cases of these diseases are not all deserved or originating from disreputable sources.

7% of all cases of syphilis and 12% of all cases of gonorrhoea are accidentally contracted. — (*Major William A. Wilson*).

50% of all syphilitic women are infected innocently.—(*Buckley*)

85% of married women having syphilis, have contracted it from their husbands. — (*Idem*).

10% of all venereal disease infections in men have been contracted outside of prostitution. — (*Vedder*).

"Are they merited", for example, those syphilitic cases, in such great number, of married and honest women, contaminated by their husbands, whether the syphilitic husband, infected during his bachelor life, presented himself prematurely to marriage or whether he has contracted the disease after marriage ?