

# Venereal Diseases are a Menace to the Nation

## GONORRHOEA AND SYPHILIS.

### Facts Showing How Serious They Are.

#### GONORRHOEA CAUSES:

More than 10% of **ALL** blindness.

80% of congenital blindness.

Many chronic diseases of joints, bladder and generative organs.

50% of surgical operations on the female, generative organs.

It is easily seen that it reduces earning capacity.

**SYPHILIS** is the cause of a large percentage of all insanity .

It causes locomotor ataxia and paresis or softening of the brain.

It is the chief cause of apoplectic and paralytic strokes in early life.

It is the cause of nearly half of the abortions and miscarriages.

It is the cause of a large proportion of diseases of the heart, blood vessels and other vital organs.

It is transmissible to the offspring and causes death in a very high percentage of those infected.

It is one of the causes of mentally defective children.

Syphilis **greatly** decreases earning capacity and shortens life about one-third.

#### PREVALENCE

The New York Health Department has estimated that about 8% of the civilian population is infected with Syphilis, and private physicians as well as military authorities estimate that there are considerably more cases of Gonorrhoea than Syphilis. This is alarming when we realize that the two diseases are equally serious.

If this estimate should be even nearly correct, and the military and civil statistics, which we have, would seem to support it, it would indicate that we have in Canada over half a million cases of Syphilis alone, and that the number of untreated cases of Venereal Diseases in our own country is simply appalling. This is only part of the problem we have to face.

#### SOME STATISTICS REGARDING VENEREAL DISEASES IN CANADA

In 1920—In a Canadian Reformatory for Women, 33% of the women were found to have Syphilis and 80% to have Gonorrhoea.

TORONTO—Routine blood tests in Toronto General Hospital in 1916 showed a percentage of 12.8%.

In an Orphan's Home in Toronto, 17.5% of all children gave a positive test for Syphilis.

MONTREAL—In 1918, routine blood tests in Montreal General Hospital showed that 26% of the patients admitted from all causes were suffering from Syphilis.

In a military area in 1918, in a regiment of draftees, **after all known or obvious cases had been withdrawn**, 5.7% of the remaining men gave a positive test for Syphilis.

The wastage, suffering and economic loss resulting from these diseases are enormous.

#### PRIMAL CAUSAL FACTORS FOR EXISTING CONDITIONS:

1. First and foremost—a lack of education in the whole sex question .
2. A failure to recognize or realize the seriousness of these diseases.
3. The highly contagious and infectious character of these diseases.