

tutes, that group who are to a great extent responsible for scattering broadcast two great, if not the greatest plagues of the present day, gonorrhoea and syphilis. It is generally conceded that the majority of these individuals are mentally defective. Dr. Maud Miner, secretary New York Probation association, found that many of the young girls entering prostitution were not normal mentally; were either feeble-minded, constitutionally inferior, or so-called border-line cases. In reference to this condition, Dr. Goddard says, "that a large proportion of prostitutes are mentally defective, easily led into the life because of natural impulses and our lack of control of them." Dr. Wilson, of Philadelphia, in a paper dealing with the question of eradication of the social diseases in large cities states "that there are approximately 544,250 public prostitutes constantly in the United States, all of whom are infected sooner or later and constantly re-infected with venereal diseases." He also estimates that there are at least three clandestine for every public prostitute, which would create an army of nearly 2,000,000, who must be considered as foci of distribution of infections, and the number inoculated annually would be appalling were it possible to determine it. The effects of these infections upon the physical and mental health of the individuals concerned are sufficiently disastrous, but unfortunately it too often involves the health and happiness of those more or less directly related to or associated with them. The cost of treatment, the loss of earning capacity, the desertions, divorces and broken homes, the physical and mental wrecks brought into the world, the