

health and that of individuals against a malady that afflicts the innocent and guilty alike.

The first question is not one of "regulating prostitution or inspecting, licensing, or legalizing the social evil," but the prevention of the unnecessary extension of a disease which produces a vast amount of sickness, misery and death.

The amount of damage a single unrestricted individual can do, may be judged from the statement of a St. Petersburg physician,—a syphilitic woman who came under his observation had succeeded in contaminating three hundred within a period of ten months. This represents merely the primary transmission of the disease; its later effects on others can hardly be computed.

The first step towards accomplishing the legal control of syphilis would undoubtedly be found in placing it among other contagious diseases which come under the jurisdiction of the health officers. Such precautions are exercised against smallpox, diphtheria and yellow fever; is it not eminently proper that syphilis should be placed in the same category? Syphilis counts its victims by thousands where other diseases count hundreds.

More deaths are ultimately caused by syphilis than by smallpox, while the injury to health and interference to life work is much greater in the former than in the latter.

The conclusion is absolute, syphilis should be placed like other contagious diseases under the control of the health authorities.

THE CHARITY BALL.

On the last night of the year the Medical building was invaded by an overwhelming host of the laity, come to dance the New Year in for the sake of Charity—the new Maternity Hospital. The affair was a memorable one and a distinct success.

The numbers present were such that the capacity of the halls was taxed to the utmost, and outside the "Ladies' Cloak Room" into which the Library had been converted for the evening, the crush was such that it boded imminent danger to the ladies' dresses, while just beyond lay the whole expanse of the ground floor spread with inviting chairs and gorgeous rugs, and unoccupied. From above it was a very pretty sight, a crowded mass of unusually brilliant colour, with the black of the men winding in and out.

Meanwhile, three dances had been played away by the orchestra in the Crow's Nest gallery, and enjoyed by only a few wise heads. Finally, however, the crowd below wound slowly upward to the Anatomical