

solely. To hear most sermons one would think that adultery, fornication and prostitution were its principal results. Its beneficial results overbalance these a hundred to one.

Even its excesses have their uses; they are a means of sterilizing or exterminating the unfit. This is especially true of prostitution. It has the earmark of a process of nature having existed from the earliest ages in every clime, under every religion (a part of the cult of many, in fact). It has been attacked with merciless severity, absolutely forbidden, crushed out, "regulated," and with only one effect, to cause it to flourish with greater vigor and wider effect. "Regulation" simply does not "regulate," but increases clandestine intercourse, lessens marriage-rates, lessens fear of arrest and of infection, and increases illegitimacy.

Prostitution is a huge garbage dump, a sewer, a crematory. It draws into it women mainly of the lower class or most degenerate impulses. It cuts short their life expectation. It practically sterilizes them. Very few of them marry, and these are mostly infertile. Only a very small per cent. reform. The chief motives leading to this trade are idleness and love of dress and bad family surroundings. This class of women we can best spare. As to the men, if they get gonorrhœa, they sterilize their wives by salpingitis; if syphilis, they either refrain from intercourse, or abortions result until the virus has run its course.—*South. Cal. Prac.*

THYROID GLAND IN TREATMENT OF GOITRE.—Some time ago Dr. P. Bruns, Professor of Clinical Surgery at the Medical Faculty of Tübingen, announced that he had obtained very encouraging results in the treatment of goitre from ingestion of the thyroid glands of sheep or calves (*The Medical Week*, 1894, p. 526). At that time his experience was limited to 12 cases of goitre, but he has since had occasion to employ this treatment in 48 additional cases, the total number of patients, consequently, being 60, which is amply sufficient to warrant one's drawing definite conclusions as to the therapeutical results.

Of Professor Bruns' 60 patients, 14 were completely cured, the thyroid gland having resumed its normal dimensions; in 20 the result obtained was practically equivalent to a cure, seeing that the reduction in size of the hypertrophied thyroid, though incomplete, was nevertheless very considerable, and the disturbances due to the presence of the cervical tumor had entirely disappeared; 9 patients had improved—that is to say, there was marked decrease in the size of the goitre and the intensity of the disturbances which it determined; in 17 cases the effect of the treatment was *nil*.

One important fact, which Professor Brun had already noticed in the first series, is rendered more prominent than ever, now that he has at his dis-

posal a much larger number of observations for comparison; it is, that the age of the subject has a great deal to do with the therapeutical results. In this respect the patients in question may be grouped in four categories: The first group comprises 7 children from one to ten years of age, all of whom recovered completely. The second group comprises 28 patients from ten to twenty years of age, of whom 21 were cured (the tumor disappearing completely in 7 cases, while in the other 14 a certain enlargement of the thyroid gland persisted, although the morbid disturbances subsided entirely), 4 improved, and three only were refractory to the treatment. In the third group of 14 patients between twenty and thirty years of age, there were 4 clinical recoveries, 3 improvements, and 7 failures. Lastly, in the fourth group of 11 individuals between forty and sixty years of age, there were 2 cases of clinical recovery, 2 of improvement and 7 of failure.

The thyroid treatment, therefore, speaking generally, is the more efficacious the younger the patient. More particularly as regards complete cure, anatomically or clinically considered, of the hypertrophy of the thyroid gland, it is hardly likely to take place unless the patient is under twenty years of age.

The preceding considerations evidently apply only to purely hyperplastic goitres, for thyroid medication can have no effect when the goitre has already undergone cystic, colloid, or fibrous degeneration.—*Medical Week.*

A PATIENT WITH A SILVER TESTICLE.—In weak-minded men the generative organs are not infrequently a fertile source of hypochondriacal delusions. In such cases the slightest deviation from what is believed to be the normal condition of the parts, or their functions, is magnified at once into a physical defect. But where the mental calibre is wanting in the patient, nothing is more difficult than to make an impression for good, with sound advice and reiterated exposure of fallacies, such as, for example, is the case with those unfortunate persons who have perfectly convinced themselves that "something is wrong" with their generative organs. A notable instance of this has been recorded in the current number of the *American Journal of Insanity*, by Dr. Hermance. A young man, aged twenty-one, consulted the author in consequence of having only one testis, a defect which had preyed upon his mind even from his childhood, and so much so lately, that he had been unable to sleep. On examination it was found that the left testis had not descended into the scrotum, but in all other respects the parts were in a perfectly normal state. The position of the retained testis precluded any attempt being made to bring it down, and, despite the patient's urgent entreaty to have something done, he was advised