

not give a word of warning. What the real sentiment of the healthy part of the community is toward him and his gonorrheal brother is shown in the fact that he becomes a pariah as soon as suspicion is aroused. But by the general public, particularly the feminine part of it, he is supposed to be a somewhat rare monstrosity. We are convinced that an active educational crusade by the medical profession would place us in as advanced a position as Germany in a short time. Let it be known how large a proportion of the population is tainted, how easily the virus is disseminated and how much worse than fatal are many of the sequelae of these diseases, and an aroused public sentiment would compel the passage of stringent laws to limit their spread. Except by showing the public danger that increasingly threatens there is no hope of changing the status quo. A large proportion of the better class of unmarried women is totally ignorant that such evils as venereal diseases exist. The words syphilis and gonorrhea would have as much significance to them as anterior poliomyelitis. And even the man about town is sometimes so unacquainted with the physical signs of syphilitic disease as to "give himself away" to his more "knowing" brother.

Were it not for the ethical and social complications of these diseases no physician would oppose the report of such cases and passage of some law similar to that proposed by the Germans. Its working would be, of course, to temporarily drive such cases from the offices of the reputable and conscientious to those of the unprincipled and the quacks. This would work hardship to the syphilologist and gynecologist, and might in the beginning partly defeat its own ends, the protection of the public. But the innocent victims of the disease would still consult the family physician, and through these the contaminator could in many cases be traced and brought to justice. As to the pecuniary loss which such a law would entail, it is the glory of the profession that such considerations have never affected its advocacy of any sanitary measure. There are some physicians who under pressure withhold a report of their diphtheria cases, but we do not talk

of abolishing compulsory report and isolation. The pressure would be still stronger in cases of venereal disease, but a big fine for omission would probably be effective in both instances. Laws, even though imperfectly administered, do accomplish something. And what we hold is that the principles which have inspired the legal measures for the restriction and suppression of other contagious diseases are applicable to venereal disease, and that it is the duty of the profession both directly, through recommendations to legislative bodies, and indirectly, through a proper enlightenment of the community, to do what it can to check this rot of western civilization.—Philadelphia Medical Journal.

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## EDITORIAL.

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The appointment of a legislative committee by the Winnipeg Medical Association was, no doubt, called for, and their duties will be far from nominal. Legislation from time to time affecting the profession takes place, the first public intimation of it is that it has become law. One of the most recent acts affecting the profession at large is known as the Health Act. The four members composing the board, with the secretary, are reasonably remunerated but beyond this the legislation is unfair and offensive to the profession. The municipalities are required to appoint health officers, one for each municipality, said health officer, when possible to be a member of the medical profession, but no scale of remuneration for his services is laid down and consequently though appointed, and the law complied with, his actions are so restricted by municipal regulations that the position becomes practically a dead letter. But nevertheless the health officer is called upon to furnish the board with monthly returns whether there is infectious disease or otherwise in the municipality his jurisdiction extends over. Another tax laid by the public on the medical profession. Hitherto we have shown ourselves not alone so willing but so anxious to undertake services without remuneration that the public have tumbled to the idea