

is free from venereal disease. The medical profession admits this point. At the big convention that Dr. Desloges and Dr. Bates attended in Washington—probably the best one ever held—the experts all admitted the impossibility of a positive diagnosis in every case. One has to be able to meet that criticism and say, “We know we cannot be sure, but we know this legislation is in the right direction.”

*By Hon. Mr. Daniel:*

Q. That is where I thought the physician would have protection?—A. Yes, he must have protection somewhere. The second criticism is that there are cases of venereal disease wherein the condition is not communicable. There are not many such cases but Dr. Bates will tell you they occur. In those cases critics say, “Why debar them from marriage? They have venereal disease, but it is not communicable.” The third criticism is that false security may be given when an individual contracting marriage presents a medical certificate recommending the issuance of a license. The fourth is that authorities in England, France and Germany do not favour such legislation as is proposed in Canada. In that connection Havelock Ellis leads the British group.

Q. Medical authorities?—A. Yes. They recently called a conference in Germany, that is referred to in this book, of the leading specialists there, and they put themselves on record as being against it. They are against it in France. They are all in favour of medical examination before marriage, but to give that information only to those contracting marriage, and then let them do as they like. That represents the European attitude of mind—freedom of the individual. They say we in science should not go farther. Personally I am not in favour of that attitude, but one has to reckon with minds on the other side of the water.

I am sorry to have taken up so much of your time, but there is one thing—

Q. Quite all right, go ahead.—A. What I have said is in Dr. Gordon Bates' field, and Dr. Desloges' field. I have no right to come before a Senate Committee on this topic of venereal disease. But I find it tremendously interesting so far as these diseases affect the mental realm, my line of work. For ten years I have been going across Canada studying the problem of mental abnormality. We have 150,000 individuals in this country suffering from the graver forms of mental and nervous disorders. Comparing that with troubles we know so much about, it is a tremendous scourge. The number of tuberculous patients in Canada is 79,000, and only 10 per cent of them are really very sick people. The others are mild cases, or in the early stages, and can get around and do their work. Take that 79,000 as against 150,000 mental cases who cannot earn their daily bread. With regard to that 150,000, heredity stands at the top of the list as one of the chief causative factors. It does not apply to all of them, of course, but we have a group that includes more than half of those conditions which we call the hereditary group, and of that hereditary group probably 50 per cent to 75 per cent are of an hereditary nature.

*By Hon. Mr. Schaffner:*

Q. Are you talking about syphilis?—A. No, mental cases, because if you are considering a bill to improve the health of this country I cannot very well come here representing a mental hygiene Committee without putting in some plea that you do something to help us combat this menace of mental abnormality—when you are discussing marriage. We are right up against the problem wherein the marriage of undesirable people is a very pertinent feature of our work. I would say that if the Bill could include, as it does in some of the United States of America—but is of no value because there no medical certificate is required—if it could include venereal disease, insanity, epilepsy, mental deficiency and