

PLAIN PRACTICAL COMMON-SENSE TRUTHS ALL
OUGHT TO KNOW.

THERE is an alarming and fearful amount of crime and misery, known and unknown, that springs from an ignorance of the laws of our being; and medical men are very much to blame for an almost criminal reticence respecting a very dangerous vice so prevalent among the youth of our land—the abuse of the sexual functions. Ministers of the Gospel neglect their duties respecting this great vice, so often mentioned in both the Old and New Testaments, the debasing sin—in other words, *the* “original sin.” They preach against the ten thousands of sins that arise from this contaminating vice, but not against the original vice. Fortunately there are a few physicians and ministers of the gospel that do their duty fearlessly, and speak the truth plainly and with good effect. Notably among them, the justly popular and highly intelligent and fearless Rev. Henry Ward Beecher. In a lecture delivered by him, in New York, to medical students, in 1867, and afterwards published in the *Journal of Health*, he says: “What God has created no man or woman need be ashamed to know about, especially when it is a knowledge of ourselves, and takes hold of the very essence of our being, and constitutes a part of our functions and duty. It is a shame that at this age of civilization both sexes should not be instructed in these things. Many a young man goes on, week after week, and month after month, holding out more and more plainly the signal of declining health and strength; no one inquires into his troubles or takes much notice of his perilous condition until it is too late to save him. At last his companions wear crape at his funeral, and the minister says, in the mysterious providence of God this young man has been prematurely called away. It is false! He fell a