

worst impediments to national prosperity. In fact, all these human derelicts constitute an enormous budget which has to be financed by the Public Treasure.

In the United States, Dr. Stokes of the Mayo Institute, estimated that the economic loss in earning capacity and the cost of care on the score of a single item, namely insanity, one of the less frequent results of syphilitic infection, would approximate 467 million dollars per annum.

If insanity, a relatively uncommon complication of syphilis, can alone cost the Public Treasure nearly half a billion dollars, to what a gigantic amount would the total cost arrive at, if we computed in monetary terms the losses incurred through other complications resulting from syphilis, such as: heart and kidney diseases, deafness, blindness, paralysis, etc., which are only too frequent and none the less grave.

This is the cost of unchecked syphilis.

The wastage of money spent on ineffective treatment, on the maintenance of hospitals and dispensaries, on medical fees and through reduction of efficiency without absolute crippling and death, is beyond the reach of comprehension.

Let us consider the social consequences of Venereal Disease as summed up by the noted French master, Fournier. If we refer to only the most important, they are as follows :

" Diverse infirmities with their accompanying destitution ;

Additional burden to Public Charity ;

Innumerable contaminations spread among the population ;

Dangers relative to marriage : introduction of syphilis into the home, thus causing disruptions, separations and divorces with all the social calamities attending them ;

Frequent contamination to wet nurses ;

Sterility in a certain number of marriages, and what is even worse, the withering corruption and degeneration of the race ;

A high death rate amongst the young, reappearing here as an active factor in depopulation."

At the Ottawa Convention, these drastic consequences were revealed to our Legislators, to their amazement: all tell me, who would not be astounded ? Is not the description all the more horrifying because it is true ? Beholding this, there arises in our minds, simultaneously, sentiments of pity for the poor innocent victims and of just severity for the guilty, sentiments of fear on account of its size and a strong desire to combat this menace victoriously.