

the secondary or venereal stage, but also as to the dreaded tertiary, or individual Nemesis, plague, with its Pandora's box of locomotor ataxia, cerebral gumma, "g. p. i.," meningitis, retinitis, laryngitis, etc. Thus not only as a sterilizer, but also as an encourager of intelligence, in popular language, as a "fool-killer," it has few equals.

But what as to the other, milder and far more common venereal disease, gonorrhœa? This has usually been regarded not only popularly, but also professionally, as a mere trifle, entailing generally some temporary discomfort, but of little more real importance than an ordinary "cold in the head." It is purely local, and usually cured in six or eight weeks, and most men can easily restrain themselves for that length of time, indeed the disease saves them all trouble on that score during the first half of the period. But what of the harvest?

There is a change in professional feeling which bids fair to amount to a revolution.

From the bacteriologic laboratory on the left wing comes the startling declaration that the "cure" of gonorrhœa is merely the establishment of toleration of the presence of the gonococcus, on the part of that individual's urethra, and that its discharges still remain virulently contagious to healthy genito-urinary passages. In fact, that the seminal fluid has been found swarming with gonococci, a year or more after the "cure" of gonorrhœa, of which I have just had a painful case brought under my own observation. There is a sharp rattle of musketry from the right wing, where the reckless laparatomist brigade in their fierce pursuit of the deadly ovary and the treacherous tube have suddenly stumbled upon another ambuscade of the enemy. It is our old friend the gonococcus, who their scouts declare to be concerned in eighty-five per cent. of their salpyngitis onslaughts. Here again venereal disease, *plus the laparatomist*, is a most efficient sterilizer. And at last we have reason to be thankful even for celiotomy.

But what of the great mass of veterans in the centre, the clinicians, the real infantry of the line in the army of medical progress, the Ironsides of the host of science, who indulge in no boastings or triumphing before the battle, or pyrotechnics of any description, or guerilla atrocities of any

sort, but simply move steadily, irresistibly forward, holding every inch of ground they gain. From every division come reports of serious casualties, of life-long and even fatal strictures, of cystitis, of young men crippled by gonorrhœal rheumatism, of thousands of little children with eyes sightless from gonorrhœal ophthalmia, of endometritis, of cellulitis, and more significant yet, of orchitis, of testicles which retain their form but not their function, and recently of semen which is swarming not with spermatozoa, but with other micro-organisms which have no tails and cluster in groups.

More than one of the leaders goes so far as to send the despairing message: "It is doubtful whether gonorrhœa is *ever* cured!"

Here again, "justice may move with a leaden foot, but she strikes with an iron hand."

To sum up, the whole mechanism of prostitution is an engine of deadliest efficacy in sterilizing and ultimately destroying the worst elements of both sexes. To say that it also involves fearful and widespread suffering and damage to innocent women and children, would be as true as it is pitiable and harrowing, but I firmly believe that this is much less both in extent and painfulness than is usually stated, and is from a purely economic standpoint only, far overbalanced by the benefit resulting to the race. "A companion of fools shall be destroyed" is no vengeful threat, but a simple statement of a stern, necessary natural law. Pain, disease and death are hard to bear and harder to look upon, but they are among the greatest benefactors of the race.

The only way to check its action is to reduce to its "anatomically necessary" limits the class upon which it is sure to act. Men should be taught the sacred duty and true dignity of reproduction; that any attempt to avoid this duty brings its own punishment. That their sexual powers belong not to themselves, but to the race, and every exercise of them must result ultimately in either a pregnancy or syphilis. That they cannot hope to enjoy the privileges and pleasures of manhood and shirk its responsibilities.

Women should be taught to trust their instincts, for in them the maternal impulses is stronger than life itself. That like every other natural instinct, it is of highest benefit not only to the race but also to the individual. That any attempt to