

But women are now becoming acquainted with many of the drugs that have a reputation for inducing a miscarriage. They will find ways and means of securing these drugs. Then many women know very well how to use instruments upon themselves. They know about taking a douche and washing their hands, and dipping the instruments in boiling water. There are very few medical men who have not met women who can tell him all about how the operation should be performed. They induce miscarriages on themselves, and then consult a doctor for the after care of the case. Here comes in a real danger—and one that every practitioner should be on his guard concerning. It is never safe to attend such cases in rooming-houses, or when the patient is boarding somewhere. They should be placed at once under conditions where they cannot implicate their medical attendants. The condition now under consideration calls and should receive proper treatment. But the point is that it should be accorded only under safe conditions.

But to some extent society is to blame for the determination on the part of a young woman to get rid of the foetus. There is nothing ahead of her but the severest censure from all parties. There should be a better system put in operation, and a more liberal spirit should be cultivated. Because a young woman makes such a mistake as to become pregnant while still unmarried, she should not be cast to the rubbish heap. There are worse sins and much less natural that regularly go unpunished. We must learn to temper judgment with mercy. In Australia the woman who gives birth to an illegitimate child receives the state aid just the same as does the married woman. We would say that the law should take up the cause of these women, and follow up the fathers, and compel them to make proper provision for the care of the mother, and maintenance of the child. When this is done, all the burden will not fall on the unfortunate woman, and the man go scott free.

THE WASSERMANN REACTION.

A good deal has been said and written upon this subject; and we have not yet had the last word. It has been contended by able observers that the reaction may remain positive for some time after the organisms have disappeared from the body. In such a case the reaction would not furnish a reliable guide to treatment. Then there are other conditions that syphilitic infection that may give a positive reaction. On this point the following quoted from the *British Medical Journal* of 19th February is to the point:

“It has long been recognized that a positive Wassermann’s reaction