

advantage of the provisions of the code and of exaggerated and perverted notions of honour, and to shield themselves from the deserved consequences of their shameful acts."

The speaker graphically portrayed the difficult position of a doctor who tells a man that he is suffering from syphilis, and who is helpless when the man insists that he cannot tell his wife, and must continue his usual relations with her. Or, again, in the case of a young man who has gonorrhoea and tells the doctor that he intends to be married in a fortnight, and refuses to postpone the marriage.

"If statute law," said the Professor, "required the reporting of syphilis and gonorrhoea the sufferers by these diseases would have no cause of complaint against the doctor, for in reporting their cases he would show but a proper and necessary obedience to law. He would thus render a service to the community of the nature of that which he performs when he gives notification of small-pox, but of greater moment by as much as syphilis and gonorrhoea are worse diseases.

"I am arguing," he said, "for a change of sentiment, such that law shall be made to protect the innocent rather than the guilty; that it shall consider the good and pure better entitled to preservation than the evil and vile."

Dealing with the legal standpoint, Mr. W. A. Purrington said, *Salus populi suprema lex* is an old and accepted maxim. The safety of the State and the health of the people are generally considered to be the most important subject of legal regulation, and there is no branch of the law in which, of recent years, individual liberty has been more curtailed than in sanitary legislation.

"The Hippocratic oath does not demand an absolute secrecy as to all knowledge that a physician has acquired in his patients. The provision of that oath is this: 'Whatever I see or hear in the life of men, whether in connection with my professional practice or not, that ought not to be spoken of abroad, I will not divulge, considering that all such knowledge should be kept secret.'"

Dr. J. P. Warbasse contended that "an educational campaign is begun as soon as venereal diseases become reportable. As soon as legal cognisance is taken of them they become subject to statistics, they become talked about, written about, and read about. They cease to be vague and mysterious. The hand of the law is turned against them. When venereal diseases are placed upon the index then and there society inaugurates a campaign for their expurgation."

Tuberculosis as a Diathetic Disease.

An article by Dr. Homer Wakefield, of New York City, which appears in the *Dietetic and Hygienic Gazette*, under the above heading, quotes the statement that "All violations of the laws of hygiene predispose to tuberculosis," and proceeds to give a digest of its etiology, susceptibilities, prophylaxis, bacteriology, and principles of treatment.

Dr. Wakefield says: The aim of the present paper is an endeavour to point out what appears to the writer to be a futile expenditure of time and money in the prophylaxis of tuberculosis, which is now expended on a large scale, based too exclusively upon the *contagiousness* of the disease as the essential and dominant feature, and at the expense of ignored factors, which the writer believes to be the more important and vital ones, and which is an unfortunate misapplication and waste of resources available for the greatest good to the greatest number.

We wish to emphasise as well as elucidate what we believe to be the truth, namely, that if the great campaign of education teaches the masses to heed and obey the hygienic laws relating to the prevention of those functional and organic disorders which characterise the diathesis or state of susceptibility, no infection need be feared, whereas if, conversely these facts are ignored, infection is impossible to prevent by any possible plan of bacilli extermination.

THE VENEREAL FACTOR.

We are especially interested in the remarks on the venereal factor. The writer expresses the opinion that we have in the sexual vices and excesses probably the greatest single cause of susceptibility to, and active cause of, tuberculosis, as of many other diseases. Yet, for prudish or other equally foolish reasons, it is practically ignored by writers on the subject, and equally so by those who have in hand the campaign of education, by exhibitions, lectures, literature distribution, etc., of the crusade against tuberculosis.

BAROMETRIC SUSCEPTIBILITY.

There are two component factors comprised in the barometric aggregate, namely, heat and humidity. Heat causes atmospheric expansion and thus rarefaction, whilst cold condenses and thus concentrates it. Humidity represents a dilution of air by the aqueous vapour suspended in it.

It is obvious that expanded, rarefied and dilute atmospheres are common and potent causes of suboxygenation, and conversely the

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