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LECTURE BY DR. SLOAN CHESSER.

VENEREAL DISEASE.

Lecturing at the Royal British Nurses' Association Club, 194, Queen's Gate, S.W., on March 3rd, Dr. Sloan Chesser said, in connection with venereal disease, that this might be described as a group of sexual diseases, and not so many years ago it was thought little of; in fact, it was regarded as being merely the result of an inevitable sowing of wild oats. She explained the main features of the disease and the development of newer methods of treatment, giving some very interesting information in connection with the skulls of children born of parents infected by venereal disease and of conditions affecting the growth of such children. Many interesting points were touched upon regarding the psychology of childhood, with special reference to the atmosphere of the home and the harmful psychological results to the children in the homes of people whose marriages were not happy; too many people were apt to forget their own childhood and the effect of early experiences. Education on sex matters should be given to the children by their parents and teachers, and this could be done best by teaching them something of the growth of cell life and the various developments which we find in plant life.

A study of psychology was excellent as regards developing balance in life and in understanding the nature of children at different ages. During the first seven years of life the child was essentially the mother's; then came a time, later in girls than in boys, when the child drew more under the influence of the father. Later would come a period when the child would, so to speak, outgrow both parents, and the latter should understand that these various stages were inevitable, should accept them, and, in each case, make the most of the opportunities they offered.

Speaking of psychology, Dr. Chesser said that there was far too great a tendency to meet old age half-way. Actually, people ought to be at their best at seventy. It might be said that they had the best physical health at thirty, the mental powers would be at their best at the age of fifty, and at seventy the individual ought to reach the period of his greatest power from a spiritual point of view. But the accumulation of all that had been gathered in life ought to make one look forward to the age of seventy rather than fear it

as a period at which abilities would be on the wane. Then it was important that no one should confine himself to one branch of work; he should take up new studies from time to time, but what these studies should be would depend upon his ordinary occupation. Of course, a brain worker should not choose such studies as would induce great mental strain. It might be said that there were two kinds of individuals—extroverts and introverts. The former were interested in practically everything that came under their notice; they approached every new scheme from the point of view of its effect upon humanity and the world in general; they were full of energy, bright, capable, and ready for every fresh undertaking. The introverts, on the other hand, were concerned only with themselves, and each new problem appealed to them only from the point of view of how far it would affect them. They were usually lacking in initiative and apt to be afraid of everything. This latter state was a dangerous one to get into; people ought to teach themselves to go up to the barriers even when they felt that defeat was inevitable. They should never run away, for what mattered was not whether or no they conquered, but whether, to use a vulgar expression, they had had the "guts" to try.

In concluding, Dr. Chesser urged those present to make a wider study of psychology and their powers of observation. No large number of books was required, indeed, provided people would study them in the proper way; all hygiene and all psychology were incorporated in two books—the New Testament and Shakespeare.

LECTURE ON SIR CHRISTOPHER WREN.

Mr. Graham Bennet occupied the Chair when Major Richard Rigg, O.B.E., gave a most wonderful lecture on Sir Christopher Wren. Mr. Graham Bennet said that he was conscious of three distinct sensations when opening the Meeting that afternoon. The first was one of happiness, for it always gave to him a great sense of pleasure to visit the Club of the Royal British Nurses' Association at Queen's Gate. The second sensation was one of pride in being associated, in any capacity, with Major Rigg, a man who was versatile, learned, a great patriot, and a most eloquent speaker. His third sensation that afternoon was one of diffidence, for he felt that he had only studied the fringe of the subject upon which the Major was to

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