

otomy and consists in the removal of a small portion of each Fallopian tube. It is claimed that the operation, properly performed, does not deprive one of the pleasures of sexual intercourse, but only of the ability to procreate children.

VENEREAL DISEASES

SYPHILIS and gonorrhea are the most widespread of all contagious diseases. About half a million new cases of syphilis and two-thirds of a million new cases of gonorrhea are treated in this country every year. That means that one percent of the total population is seriously infected annually. The name "venereal" is derived from Venus, the Roman goddess of love. Soft chancre is also classed as a venereal disease. Leucorrhea, or "the whites", an inflammation and consequent discharge of a whitish mucous from the vagina in women, is not such a disease.

Syphilis is a germ disease, transmitted from an infected person. The germ thrives in warmth and moisture, but does not live long outside the body. When deposited on drinking cups, toilet seats, and clothing it lives a very short time. Infection through such mediums is of rare occurrence, although it has been known to happen. The only frequent cause is sexual intercourse, as the germs are abundant in the genital organs of both men and women who have it. When there are sores on the mouth it may be transmitted by kissing. It is frequently bestowed by a mother on child during pregnancy, with dire results to the child. This is known as congenital syphilis.

The germ requires three or four weeks to develop the disease in the body. The first symptom is a pimple on the area where the germ entered. In a few days it develops into an ulcer, known as a chancre. In the female it may be well up within the body, hidden from view. Presence of the disease may readily be discovered by a physical examination or by a blood test.

While the chancre tends to heal rapidly, the disease at the same time spreads throughout the body. A skin eruption, sometimes hardly noticeable, follows.

Sore throat and mouth occur. Headaches, sore back at nights, and a general run-down feeling develop and may continue for several years.

Usually the disease seems to leave the body, and the patient feels well again for an indefinite period. The period of apparent health varies from a few years to more than twenty. But serious complications are taking place gradually.

After the quiet period the late results appear: a form of insanity known as paresis, paralysis, disorders of the blood vessels and heart and bones, ulcers, skin eruptions, in fact, trouble of a serious nature in any part of the body. These may all be prevented by proper and careful treatment of the disease in its early stages.

Transmission of the disease to the unborn child may result in its death before birth and consequent miscarriage. If the child lives to grow up any of the disorders already mentioned may develop. An infected child should be under a physician's care throughout its life, or the disease may break out at any time with dire results. Under wise medical treatment the child may enjoy normal health.

If treatment is not started within a few months of infection, complete cure is almost impossible. Thorough treatment by a reliable physician during the first months of the disease usually results in full recovery. Never be ashamed or afraid to consult a physician if you have any suspicion of infection. While the treatment is painful and severe in some ways it is much less painful than the disease in later stages. When a woman who has had syphilis becomes an expectant mother, she should put herself under the observation of a doctor as soon as she knows of her pregnancy. This will prevent transmission of the germs to the child.

One recovering from the disease should not marry for two years after the cure, to be entirely safe from transmitting the germs. The partner to the marriage should always be advised of the condition beforehand.

In 1907 August von Wassermann discovered a serum test for syphilis which makes it possible to determine from a serum extracted from the patient not only the present course of the disease, but also a past in-