

THE DAILY NEWS

Subscribes to

The Fight Against the Fifth Column of Venereal Disease

urge that this campaign be taken very seriously

Two Meetings To Be Held

The general public is invited to attend the public meetings being held in connection with Social Hygiene Week. Moving pictures will be shown and there will be speakers at each meeting.

On Monday evening the Staff House Dining Hall will be the scene of one of the meetings. Two films will be screened. Also at the meeting Dr. R. G. Knipe, Dr. J. J. Gibson, B. Thorsteinssen and Colin McCarthy will speak.

On Wednesday evening there will be a repeat of this meeting at the Navy Drill Hall. The use of this building has been granted through permission of Commander C. M. Cree, officer commanding naval services in Prince Rupert.

Keeping a Record Of All the Cases

All Information Confidential—In Touch With Progress of Recovery

The authorities keep an almost permanent record of cases of venereal disease that are treated in their clinics or that are reported to them by the doctors. It is their intention of controlling these diseases and only this comprehensive filing system can make this possible. Every available source must be known and watched until cured.

Even in this system the information given by patients is held strictly confidential. A number is given to the official reports of the patient's progress and the majority of health workers are unaware of whom this number represents. When a known source moves to another locality, their name and the information regarding them is sent on to the health officer in that area.

Through it all, one sees system efficiency and a real desire by the health department to bring venereal disease under control in this province.

Paragraphs For Public

Syphilis and gonorrhea are serious communicable diseases and should be looked upon as menaces to community health.

Syphilis and gonorrhea, like tuberculosis, are familial diseases and are spread by the intimate contacts of family life, community health requires the protection of family and examination of all contacts of cases of syphilis and gonorrhea.

Congenital syphilis is 95 per cent preventable if adequate treatment is begun not later than the 5th month of pregnancy and persistently followed up.

The blood test is an essential part of a prenatal examination, because syphilis in pregnancy commonly shows no clinical symptoms.

Reduction of congenital syphilis will result in the decline of stillborn and infant mortality rates.

Prophylactic treatment of newborn babies' eyes has conquered ophthalmia neonatorum. Congenital syphilis can be conquered by treating syphilis in pregnancy.

If adequate treatment is given continuously for at least one year to patients with seronegative primary syphilis, cure can be obtained in 95 to 98 per cent of all cases.

Most cases of syphilis promptly become non-infectious under effective arsenamine and heavy metals treatment, but cases inadequately treated may again become infectious and a danger to contacts.

Gonococcal cervico-vaginitis in girl children demands an inquiry into the possible infection of all members of the household.

Because their symptoms are not always obvious gonorrhea and syphilis are often spread by persons who are unaware of their infection.

Both family and community would be best safeguarded by periodic general health examinations which would include search for syphilis and gonorrhea.

Fighting Venereal Disease

By Reg S. Davis, Official Editor of Vancouver Junior Board of Trade.

WILL YOU HELP FIGHT VENEREAL DISEASE?

There are very few open minded citizens who will answer that above question in the negative and these few we can ignore as helpers, because many of them are probably among the very factors we have to fight. If you will help in this fight learn the following facts.

1. Learn all you can about the venereal disease problem in British Columbia, but especially in your own town or city. If you have any cases in your community or a series of new cases constantly arising, you have a serious source of infection somewhere in your district. Remember the main original source of Venereal Disease is the prostitute.

Stamp out vice, close the disorderly houses, jail the madams and the procurers, prosecute the owners of property used for this purpose. Find out why they are allowed to operate in defiance of recognized law and order. Is someone being paid to allow them to run free. Then you see about it. There is big money in this racket. Big money an absolutely no scruples or human kindness. Go to your police force and demand action and don't be put off with any excuse at all. If a brothel is allowed to run anywhere, the police are allowing it to run. Remember that.

2. Don't adopt an apologetic attitude when discussing this "something" that might conceivably affect your own home or family at some time. This is no time for prudery. You don't talk of Hitler under your breath, but your own son might be quite innocently stricken with this disease and suffer far more than if he were able to die fighting Hitler.

3. This is a Public Health problem. Demand routine premarital and prenatal blood-testing. No matter what your thoughts or scruples are on the matter, either you are free or you are not free. If you are free you can face yourself and your future children openly, but if you are not free, then you are a definite menace to yourself and your children and your community.

4. This is also a war problem. The Prince Rupert Junior Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring this Health Campaign with this view mainly in mind. Stamp out Venereal Disease in our armed forces, and in our industries, and untold millions of man days will be saved, besides the human suffering and misery that will be avoided.

5. Spend a little time now, and you will save much higher taxes later. This is not a selfish drive, inaugurated for publicity. There are many other simpler easier ways for the Junior Board to attain publicity. This is a public benefit, because so many benefits will be felt by the public as a whole if Venereal Disease is stamped out: namely,

a. Prostitution, with all its accompanying evils of crime, degradation, bribery and immorality, will be wiped out.

b. These unfortunate (and some are) people who are involved in this "Age-old" profession can be started again, and in time become a credit to the country. (This rehabilitation is quite possible, and has been tried and proved in many parts of the world).

c. Civilian and home life will be freed of one of the most dreaded enemies ever to be recognized as such.

d. Industry will benefit by having less man hour wastage. This, leading to increased production will give the armed forces the weapons needed NOW, and in addition leave those forces free to use those weapons without having to fight Venereal Disease.

Today most doctors are properly equipped to examine you. If you have no family doctor you may visit the Public Health Unit, Second Ave, where these tests are painless, harmless and free to all.

IT depends on YOU.

RADIO BROADCAST

Be sure to tune in to CFPR next Thursday evening at 6:30. B. Thorsteinssen, Inspector of Schools, will be the speaker. His topic will be "The Community and Social Hygiene."

Campaign To Be Continued

It is not the intention of the local Public Health Unit nor the Junior Chamber of Commerce to make a big week of the next seven days and then forget all about social hygiene for another year.

Colin McCarthy of the anti-V.D. committee of the Junior Chamber states that plans are already being formulated to have speakers present at various local bodies and at a young people's organization during the following months. The committee itself will remain active and keep literature constantly before the general public.

How Venereal Campaign Got Its Start Here

It was just about a year ago that the problem of venereal disease in Prince Rupert came to the attention of the Junior Chamber of Commerce. A committee was formed by the president, consisting of Colin McCarthy and Len Griffiths. Literature and posters were secured and there was concentration on industrial concerns in the city and district in the matter of education.

Later, when the seriousness of the situation became better known the committee of two was expanded. In charge of the present campaign are the two original members and R. G. Birch, who shares directorship with Colin McCarthy, Douglas Wood, Hugo Kraupner, Rev. A. P. MacSween and L. M. Feisen-thal, president of the Junior Chamber.

Eleven thousand men, women, and children in British Columbia acquired syphilis or gonorrhea during the past four years. (Note) — The total is actually higher, for many cases were not reported).

Speakers For Service Clubs

Both service clubs have arranged for special speakers on the subject of social hygiene at the meetings during next week. Major B. B. Moscovich will be the guest speaker at the Gyro Club luncheon on Wednesday. Lieut. Col. Coy, commanding officer of the area military hospital, will speak to the Rotary members on the following day.

Exploiters Of Vice Are Emphasized

The National Venereal Disease Conference held in Ottawa recently asked that when patients were isolated under provisions of venereal disease legislation, that such isolation should be in hospitals, and not in prisons. Federal health authorities have also warned that in efforts to eradicate prostitution, emphasis must be placed on prosecution of "third-party beneficiaries," at work behind the scenes — the persons operating resorts and those having control of properties.

Action must be taken against the exploiters rather than the exploited women, or "against the heart and brain of the octopus," according to an Ottawa health authority.

Campaign Notes

In a recent press statement it was revealed that the Prince Rupert Medical Association through its president, Dr. C. H. Hankinson, had expressed its whole-hearted endorsement of the plans for the social-hygiene campaign of the Junior Chamber of Commerce which opens Monday and will continue all week.

"Plain Facts," a motion picture all should see. Public meeting, Staff House Dining Hall, Monday, 8 p.m.

Syphilis strikes 1 out of every 10 adults. Arm against syphilis.

We join these other merchants in supporting whole heartedly the campaign to make

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A HEALTHIER CITY

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are to be controlled in Prince Rupert you must be informed of the facts. Read these pages.

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A SUPPORTER

Of the Social Hygiene Campaign

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Social Hygiene Week

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A Healthier City