Sponsored by the Health League of Canada, and locally by the Prince Rupert Health Unit and the Junior Chamber of Commerce

PRINCE RUPERT SOCIAL HYGIENE WEEK

National Drive Opens Monday

COST BABE EYESIGHT

Can Invade Internal —It Is No Trivial Complaint

is a venereal disease germ called the gono- According to estimates American Social Hy- ciation, about three any people become in- h gonorrhea as with nd each year about w cases develop. blic mind gonorrhea is used with syphillis, two diseases are in no Gonorrhea cannot de- syphillis—it is not one es of syphillis. The sy- Spirochaeta pallida, norrhea germ, gonococ- t even relatives. Each a separate and distinct is frequently said that "no more serious than " or that "most men one time or another." se assumptions are en- Gonorrhea is no triv- nt. When it invades organs, it causes se- particularly in wo- frequently the disease erility both in women nd the serious organic en caused by this germ ved only by surgical f at all.

if present in the birth enter the baby's eyes For that reason, used to be the chief dness in newborn ba- practice required by ada of placing drops of silver nitrate in a immediately after practically wiped out of blindness. gonorrhea is spread by sexual contact, such towels and handker- in rare instances also infection when they are a person who has the

illis, gonorrhea must be by reliable physicians. must be started early, now practically certain medical care is given the first symptoms are d then continued until examinations show that is cured. ently the treatment of was a long, tedious, icated procedure, which means successful in ev- But with the discovery lfa" family are effective gonococcus physicians ble to bring about rapid lmost all cases. Accord- United States Public rvice, our country can gonorrhea within a rea- me if a nationwide pro- eveloped to attack the th these new "magic bul-

t that severe reactions when any of the "sulfa" taken is a reminder that be used only under the of a physician. These not "home remedies," to and taken as one sees

re safe only when taken nce with a doctor's pre- and under his continued n.

THE ONLY WAY

per cent of those who hillis don't know it. A blood test is one way to yourself informed about

Social Hygiene Week

Proclamation

WHEREAS, I have been told that the venereal diseases are Canada's most serious wartime health problem, affecting the efficiency of the armed services, the industrial output, and the health and welfare of many thousands of our people; and

WHEREAS, these diseases strike at the home and the community, causing great suffering, unhappiness, invalidism and early death, and

WHEREAS many of the victims of these diseases are babies and others who are innocent of any wrong; and

WHEREAS the treatment of these diseases and the care of dependent families imposes a heavy financial burden on families and the community; and

WHEREAS, the Junior Chamber of Commerce, in co-operation with the Health League of Canada and the public-health authorities, proposes to observe March 13th to March 18th, 1944, as Social Hygiene Week, as a focal point for a program of public education in these matters;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, H. M. Daggett, Mayor of the City of Prince Rupert, do hereby proclaim March 13th to March 18th, as Social Hygiene Week, and do hereby urge all people to unite with responsible leaders in the campaign against syphilis and gonorrhoea in observing this week and participating in the campaign to follow.

Given under my hand and sea, at Prince Rupert, B.C. this 29th day of February, in the Year of Our Lord, One Thousand, Nine Hundred and Forty-four.

H. M. DAGGETT, Mayor.

The Supreme Sorrow of Motherhood is to Discover Innocent Victims of Disease

"Isn't she lovely!"

What a thrill to hear these words from admiring friends and relatives when you proudly have a new addition to the family brought out for inspection.

And yet, not all mothers are permitted to enjoy this wonderful experience. Five times out of six, mothers with untreated syphlis in this province are destined to lose their children at birth, or to bring them into the world diseased, blind, or crippled for life.

This is the great tragedy of motherhood!

The Unborn Child

Prenatal or "congenital" syphilis is a disease contracted by the baby during pregnacy. It is due to the actual passage of the syphilitic germs from the mother's blood to the unborn child. The infection may cause its death during pregnacy, with resulting miscarriage or still-birth. Of those babies that are born alive, many will die in the first few months of infancy. Others, which seemed healthy at birth, will later develop signs of syphilis such as blindness, bone defects, loss of hearing, insanity.

During the past twenty years medical science has made a starting discovery. Prenatal syphilis can be prevented in nine out of ten cases by treatment of the expectant mother.

Only a blood test will indicate whether or not a mother has syphilis. In fact, women often show no outward signs of the disease at all. Especially is this true of pregnant women.

Ask Blood Test

Thus, every woman expecting a baby should ask her doctor for a blood test early in pregnancy. If the test is positive she can take advantage of the almost certain protection for her unborn child which her doctor or clinic can provide. In this way, and in this way only, can prenatal syphilis be stopped.

The key, then, to the prevention of all prenatal syphilis is a blood test for every prospective mother before the fifth month of every pregnancy.

Innocent Victims

Every year thousands of innocent babies are born with this dread disease. A large percentage of the mothers, too, are innocently infected and are quite unaware of the fact that they have syphilis. This is why a blood test early in pregnancy is essential.

V. D. Sources In Arrested Persons

Twenty-four of Twenty-seven Women, in Local Jail, Affected

During a specific period, 27 women who had been arrested on various charges, and had appeared in court in Prince Rupert, were all given physical examinations. Blood tests were taken and analysis for venereal dicase were made.

In 21 of the women, the tests for gonorrhea were positive. In three of the remaining six, syphilis was present. And remarkably enough, few of the women realized that they were suffering from either.

Treatment was given in all cases.

Only a physician is qualified to diagnose and treat a venereal infection. Keep away from the "Quacks."

No home remedy has ever cured syphillis or gonorrhoea.

It is imperative that these vital facts be widely publicized.

Your physician and Provincial Board of Health are deeply concerned with the health and happiness of the citizens in your community. They have made a thorough study of the problem of prenatal syphilis and are in a position to deal with it effectively.

They can suggest—

You can act.

INSIST UPON A BLOOD TEST.

CO-OPERATION BY DOCTORS

Almost one hundred per cent co-operation by the medical profession in Prince Rupert has been one of the factors that has given the local health unit confidence that venereal disease in the city can be controlled and greatly lessened.

In a statement to the press, Dr. Knipe expressed warm appreciation of this attitude by the local physicians. Without their co-operation, little can be done," he said. "It has only been through them that known cases in the city are reported almost one hundred percent."

DESERVING OF FULL SUCCESS

Railway Medical Officers O.K. Of Nation-Wide V.D. Drive

MONTREAL, Que., Mar. 11 Activity of the Junior Chamber of Commerce in the drive against venereal disease has been applauded by Dr. K. E. Dowd, the chief medical officer of the Canadian National Railways. The Junior Chamber is allied with the Health League of Canada in the educational program.

Writing to Joseph Lichstein National Health chairman of the Junior Chamber of Comerce, Dr. Dowd said:

"The prevention of the spread of venereal disease has been the subject of much discussion and of considerable preventive action by medical and public bodies in recent years. The eradication of this disease is not only desirable, but necessary, and any plan based upon sound public health principles, designed to prevent this disease through education and to eliminate it through medical treatment, deserves the support of all good citizens.

"All will applaud the active support which the National Health Committee of the Junior Chamber of Comerce of Canada is giving to this fine national purpose, and will wish it the full success which it deserves."

Syphillis and Gonorrhoea are curable. Let's stamp them out.

Commercialized prostitution is the greatest reservoir of venereal disease.

Syphillis is responsible for a large proportion of diseases of the heart, blood vessels, and brain.

Venereal Disease--Problem of Prince Rupert's Public Health

Campaign Will Bring Full Information on Subject to the Public by Radio, Press and Pictures — Report for 1943 Reveals Local Conditions

Syphiils and gonorrhea, dread scourges of community life, are to be dragged out of their prudish and hush-hush hide-outs by the Anti-V. D. Campaign which opens next week under the sponsorship of the Junior Chamber of Commerce and the Prince Rupert Public Health Unit. Public meetings, newspaper articles, radio talks, posters, in fact, every medium possible is to be used to bring full information of the local situation, venereal diseases in general and what must be done about them.

C. F. McCarthey, chairman of the Junior Chamber committee in charge of the campaign, has organized a full corps of workers, who will distribute literature and information for all those who wish it. In close co-operation with the campaign is Dr. Roger G. Knipe, M.D., D.P.H., medical health officer and director of the Prince Rupert Health Unit. Dr. Knipe has turned over moving picture films and a great deal of information for the public on the subjects.

The situation in Prince Rupert as regards Venereal Disease is a matter of considerable concern. Hundreds of dollars have been spent in the installation of proper equipment for treatment of affected persons at the local health unit. Almost five hundred dollars in medicines have been used during the first six months that this particular branch was in operation. The doctor's services to the patients have been free of charge. It takes little figuring to realize the vast amount of money syphilis and gonorrhea are costing the taxpayers of Prince Rupert, to say nothing of the suffering and anguish the individual and often, the family, feel.

Here is a reprint from the annual report of the Prince Rupert Public Health Unit of Venereal Disease in this city:—

193 Cases

"One of the greatest single public health problems in Prince Rupert is the control of venereal disease. There was a total of 193 cases of venereal disease reported for the year 1943, giving an approximate rate of 14.9 per cent per thousand; 71 per cent gonorr-

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PATIENT CAN AID DOCTOR

Regularity in Attendance, And Complete Information Helpful

One of the most vital needs in the battle to control venereal disease is the full co-operation of the patient. Regular attendance for treatments is necessary. The more regular the treatments, the sooner the patient is discharged as cured.

Secondly, and just as vital, the patient should give all information regarding the source of the disease to the doctor treating the case. In this way, the party from whom the patient made the contract can be brought in for treatment also. This will probably save countless others from suffering. This information given by the patient is held in strictest confidence, and the source never learns from whence the knowledge of his or her condition came

VENEREAL DISEASE IN RELATION TO SOME OTHER DISEASES

Infections reported in Prince Rupert area in 1943

VENEREAL DISEASE	193
MEASLES	73
WHOOPING COUGH	24
SCARLET FEVER	9
MENINGITIS	9
DIPHTHERIA	6
TYPHOID FEVER	1

INTEREST IS NATION-WIDE

Splendid Support Given Drive From Sea to Sea

TORONTO, Mar. 11—Eagerness of the Canadian public to learn how the present spread of venereal disease may be controlled was indicated by attendance at numerous community meetings on Social Hygiene Days held across the Dominion, the Health League of Canada reports.

Generously publicized by the press and the radio, and by public spirited advertisers, the Social Hygiene Day meetings drew capacity audiences and in some cities, hundreds were turned away. For those unable to attend the special meetings, other opportunities will be offered.

In many places, mayors and other civic administrators are giving strong support to the efforts of the Health League, the Junior Chamber of Commerce and other supporting organizations to bring about public appreciation of "Canada's major wartime public health problem."

Among national organizations which have lined up with the Health League for the voluntary educational program is the Canadian Pharmaceutical Association, with 3,800 member stores.

A feature of February 2 was the address by Hon. Ian Mackenzie, minister of pensions and national health, over the national network of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. He was followed on the air by the ministers of health of most of the provinces, or their deputies, speaking over provincial networks.

Social Hygiene Day was only the firing of the gun for a year-round program the Health League points out. It was an occasion for urging the community support of more intensive effort to follow.

Greater Among The Civilians

To those in Prince Rupert who think otherwise, it may be enlightening to learn that the prevalence of venereal disease in this city is greater among the civilian population than in the services.

360,000 Fell Before the Raids of V.-D.

In the last war, seven million man days were lost through the incidence of venereal disease—in the U.S. army alone. This involved 360,000 men. More people than in the city of Vancouver. Can you visualize what 360,000 soldiers, properly equipped, could do to Berlin, or Tokio, in 20 days? Yet they were forced to languish in the hospital beds for that 20 days—a constant source of worry and expense to the army officers. In the present war, 100,000 men were rejected from the first two million in the U.S. inspected, because of venereal disease. This means that of a proposed half of a million needed men rejected because the world has sought to put this scourge under cover and ignore it, instead of bringing it out into the open and fighting it.

The Source

Now the civilian population is the source of venereal disease in the armed services. Throughout the U.S.A., and Canada, the army, navy and air force heads are declaring whole towns and districts out of bounds because law enforcement officers in those places cannot or will not, clear up existing vice conditions. To the young man or woman entering the services taken almost entirely out of civilian life and its restrictions, often comes the impulse to fling aside what inhibitions they may have had before and try everything "now." Not all of them do, but of those involved, the infection rate is alarming. All our soldiers, sailors and airmen are instructed in social hygiene and equipped with regulation kits. The facts are presented to them frankly, and this will do a great deal in our fight against venereal disease to overcome the prejudice of discussing it. Nevertheless, thousands of men are tied up and millions of dollars worth of equipment lie idle because of the lack of interest or sense of shame with which the citizens sidestep their duty — the duty of cleaning up the communities and doing away with vice and its attendant evils.

Not Enough

It isn't enough to buy War Bonds and sit back with the satisfied air of having helped the war effort. All this revenue is needed to finance our war effort, not to pay for the cleaning up of the ravages of a disease that depends upon crime, prostitution, bribery and relaxed law enforcement for its very existence. Only one great army is so free of venereal disease as to be almost clean and that is the Soviet army Why? Are conditions in Russia different to Canada? Are the people more anxious than we are to have a clean, disease-free country? Are there more mentally deficient girls and women here than in the Soviet? Or is it only because Russia has taken the money out of vice and educated the people to the resultant dangers of the disease? The last reason is the greatest single factor in its reduction, but the other questions can be known by the progress we in Canada make.

PUBLIC MEETINGS:

Staff House Dining Hall, Monday, March 13th, at 8:00 p.m.
Navy Drill Hall, Wednesday, March 15th, at 8:00 p.m. No Charge!