

(Letter to London Times, Dec. 28, 1918, p. 7,c)

THE PREVENTION OF VENEREAL DISEASE.

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Simple Sanitary Measures.

(undated)

True copy to London Times
To the Editor of the Times.

Sir: - The opportune and grave warning against the growing danger to the public health from the venereal infection that will certainly follow on the demobilization of our troops, was published in the Times of Nov. 25. That the danger is urgent and wellnigh immeasurable is clearly shown by the striking facts quoted from the statements made by the National Council for Combating Venereal Diseases, and is borne out by all who have practical knowledge of the subject.

In view of this daily increasing menace to the health of the nation, is it not time that the present timid and hesitating counsels, leading as they must do, to weak and ineffective action, should give place to clear advice and strong purpose?

Venereal diseases, like other infectious diseases due to micro-organisms, can be successfully conquered only by careful study of their natural history and causation, and by the translation of that knowledge into action. Extraneous considerations can have no place in sanitary problems; it is because they have had too much place that the National Council has failed. Smallpox and typhoid have been largely banished by the adoption of measures based on knowledge of these diseases. Venereal diseases should be similarly dealt with.

It has been abundantly proved during the war that venereal diseases can be controlled by the adoption of simple sanitary measures, the success of which is striking, and the materials for which can be obtained from any chemist. These measures should at once be made known, and available and organized instruction given in their application. This is the only effective way of meeting a dangerous situation - dangerous not only for our soldiers and sailors, but for the population at large. The danger of delay is very great.

We are your obedient servants,

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