

THE VIRGINIA TEACHER

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EDUCATIONAL COMMENT

HEALTH MENACE NOW FACED SQUARELY

Plans for the first National Social Hygiene Day, to be held February 3, 1937, are announced by the American Social Hygiene Association, of 50 West Fiftieth Street, New York City. On this day, state and community voluntary organizations interested in the control of syphilis and gonorrhea and other social hygiene problems, with the advice and approval of health authorities and the medical and allied professions, are planning to hold meetings all over the United States.

There has been definite progress all along the line during the past year in public understanding and support of the campaign against syphilis. Newspapers and magazines are opening their columns to public discussion of this health menace to a greater extent than ever before. Certain important groups, such as the General Federation of Women's Clubs and the National Council of Women, are adopting the fight against syphilis as among their next major efforts in promoting community health. (The women's groups are particularly interested in the elimination of prenatal or congenital syphilis, which, acquired by a child before

birth from an infected mother, is responsible for a large share of stillbirths, miscarriages and defective children, and which is entirely preventable by proper treatment.)

Service luncheon clubs, such as Rotary, Kiwanis, and Lions have recently been undertaking social hygiene programs. Business leaders are studying the cost to industry from lost time, lowered efficiency and hospitalization due to syphilis. The large insurance companies are concerned over the unnecessary claims for death and disability due to syphilis. Civil clubs, forums and town meetings are discussing the diagnosis and treatment of syphilis as a national plague.

It is believed that the direction of united nation-wide attention to this subject in the way that is proposed will help professional and lay community leaders to capitalize and increase this new interest, and consolidate for further advance towards meeting General Parran's challenge to "stamp out syphilis."

THE MACHINERY OF INTERNATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE

The International Friendship League, 41 Mt. Vernon Street, Boston, Massachusetts, has been organized for the purpose of promoting better understanding among the youth of all nations through personal correspondence. Up to now, well over two million letters have been exchanged between boys and girls of the United States and sixty different countries. Since English is being taught in practically every country in the world, nearly all the correspondence is carried on in the English language.

Teachers feel that the world-wide correspondence plan is stimulating to their students in their studies of geography, sociology, and history.

For further information, address the Executive Secretary, International Friendship League.