

a thorough understanding of pedagogy, economics, social science and ethics.

The book is essentially a guide for teachers and the question of whether the instructor is to be the parent, the school teacher, the physician, or the physical director is thoroughly discussed. The deduction reached is that neither of these alone should assume the entire responsibility for sex instruction, but that there should be a wise division of the labor. There follows a clear enunciation of the proper duties of each instructor with the result that the child will eventually receive a clean and proper conception of the meaning of sex. Special emphasis is given that the instruction is to be graded and no effort made to impart the entire subject at one fell swoop or at unusual times or to place undue importance or stress on sex matters. Delicate subjects are diplomatically handled and the biological and social aspect of sex indulgence is tactfully discussed without offense.

The suggestion of isolation for the venereally infected sex offender, male as well as female, has long been advocated by public health officers, but unfortunately the question is so intimately interwoven with economic factors that public opinion is opposed to it at this time.

The question of birth control receives a few appropriate lines. On page 104 the admonition is given:

The size of families should be adjusted to produce the best results. Many parents well fitted both in hereditary qualities and in favoring conditions produce families harmfully small. Many families are larger than either the hereditary endowments or the means of support will warrant.

A few rather radical proposals should be taken *cum grano salis*. For instance, we question for the present, the advisability and practicability of segregating defectives during the reproductive period. The term "defective" is rather indefinite and just who or what constitutes a defective has not been legally established. Nor do we believe that the effective sterilization of defectives by means of an operation would be a legal procedure.

A reading of the book brings us to the conclusion of the English author, H. G. Wells, who said "a subject can be perfectly decent when it is shouted from the house-tops, which would be salacious and shameful when whispered in the ear."

It is a thoughtful, comprehensive and exhaustive study on the proper approach of a difficult subject and an invaluable work for teachers, physicians, nurses and parents or any individual coming in contact not alone with children, but with adults seeking the light.

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TRANSACTIONS OF THE TWELFTH ANNUAL MEETING, American Child Hygiene Association, 532 17th Street, N.W., Washington, D. C. Price, \$3.

This report contains much of interest to every health worker and is indispensable to those who are primarily concerned with the health of children, as it contains the reports of the officers and of important committees on the work of the year. It contains also the addresses and live discussions that combined to make an unusually rich programme.