

SPETON

ITS SOCIOLOGICAL AND MEDICINAL IMPORTANCE AS AN ANTICONCEPTIVE.

By Hofrat Prof. Dr. Liplawsky.

The question of undesired pregnancy has for many years engrossed the attention of Doctors and Social Politicians in all countries.

There is indeed great need of Birth Control in the countries of Europe impoverished by the Great War, and especially in Germany which is suffering from over-population and a diminished territory. Economic and social distress is widespread, unemployment is on the increase and most families are no longer in the position to rear a large number of children. This has resulted in an increased number of cases in which bitter necessity has driven people to make use of measures prohibited by law.

The well-known Gynaecologist Professor Dr. Bumm, has established the fact statistically that in Germany 500,000 miscarriages occur every year, of which from 80 % to 90 % are brought about intentionally. This enormous number of abortions accounts for the vast percentage of mortality among women, and the still greater percentage of disease or illness causing protracted suffering and inability to work.

The social disadvantage of over-population affects us in that it produces a high percentage of people who are degenerate, useless, physically and mentally unfit and who thus become a burden to the community. The budding life, often with a hereditary disposition for disease, is protected by law under pain of severe punishment or disgrace.

But who protects the women about to become mothers from the worst consequences of the social, sociological and economic need and struggle? Private organisation for the protection of the mother has little money, and still less influence and power. The humane idea of the protection of the mother does not imply any advance in actual politics. The State alone is in duty bound to work in this direction in order to procure

Natural instinct will provide for the continuation of mankind, and will look to it increases and does not become extinct. Almost every human couple living in well-ordered social and economic circumstances is anxious to have, and often yearns for, offspring, and childlessness is still a subject of medical treatment in the practice of the Gynaecologist.

Amongst clerk with large families, officials, and indeed in the various grades of the working class population, laden with economic cares and struggling for a bare existence the message of pregnancy forebodes increased trouble and often misfortune. Then all the ethical and moral teachings are worthless, and unfortunately even the most severe paragraphs in the penal code fail in their purpose.

Scientific research has for some time past been occupied with the mechanical and chemical contrivances and measures in use for the prevention of conception. The utility of anticonceptive means must be judged according to various points of view. The effective substance is to reach the "Portio" and render inactive the spermatozoid germs, without in any way injuring the mucous membrane. Preparations consisting of powder or fat have many disadvantages, and do not guarantee a safe prevention from conception.

I have for many years made use of the SPETON TABLETS prepared by the Temmler Chemical Works, Berlin-Johannisthal, in cases where it was necessary that pregnancy should be avoided and wish to state that this preparation gave every satisfaction.

The component parts of the SPETON TABLETS, formerly known as SPERMATHANATON, are: Natrium Dichlorylsulfamidbenzoic, Dioxybernstein acid, Natrium Hydrocarbonicum. The SPETON TABLETS are easily soluble in water and in the secretion of the mucous membrane, by developing gaseous foam. Mingling with the vaginal secretion a SPETON TABLET forms in the course of from 1—3 minutes a very frothy emulsion giving off oxygen. The Dichlorylsulfamidbenzoic acid is, in spite of its strong antiseptic properties, neither poisonous nor injurious to the mucous membrane, so that the SPETON TABLETS are perfectly HARMLESS.

The SPETON TABLETS have immediate and direct effect upon the Spermatozoid germs, paralysing them and making them immobile in a few seconds. If fresh Sperma mixed with vaginal secretion be placed under the microscope and brought into contact with the Speton substance, we can immediately observe the effect upon the spermatozoid: — the lively movements of the spermatozoid germs subside, and within a few seconds a conglomeration of coagulated spermatozooids is formed. This greyish-white coagulated substance covers the Portio separating the Vagina from the Uterus, so that the Spermatozoid germs that are still active or capable of living cannot penetrate into the Uterus. Hours after we can see with a mirror that the Portio is still covered with the greyish-white substance. The so-called viscosity of the Spermatozoid succumbs to certain physical laws in the same manner as does the viscosity of the blood.

In addition to the lively movements of the spermatozoid germs, there arise after coition automatic contractions of the sides of the vagina. The

peristaltic contractions offer to the Sperma an easy pathway to the Portio and Uterus. However, by means of the SPETON the Uterus is tightly closed rendering an entrance of the Spermatozoid germ into the Uterus impossible.

The method of anticonception is explained thus: Just as Fibrin in Hemorrhage coagulates the blood and closes the injured vessels, so does SPETON act upon the Sperma and Vaginal-secretion, the two coagulating immediately upon coming into contact with one another, and forming a wall of separation between the Vagina and the Womb, representing a mechanical closure. By means of the gas which has been formed, the coagulated substance adheres to the Portio and the adhesion lasts for several hours. This favourable circumstance is a great and unmistakable advantage and improvement as regards the anticonceptive effect of the SPETON. The method of using and administering SPETON is very simple causing no difficulties whatever, as many other anticonceptives do.

However, as the lay public has usually only a very slight and insufficient anatomical and physical knowledge, it is the duty of the doctor not only to order the SPETON TABLETS to be used, but also to explain and give thorough directions for their use. First of all the tablet must be inserted as far as possible in the Vagina with the fingers, so that it may be well moistened by the vaginal secretion, and then it is absolutely certain that the SPETON will reach the Portio and the chemical and mechanical effects will result. We know by experience that the SPETON TABLETS dissolve very quickly in the Vagina, and therefore it is necessary that the insertion be carefully and deftly carried out.

The SPETON TABLETS are accepted by the Medical Profession as a harmless and absolutely reliable ANTICONCEPTIVE, and indicated as a PROPHYLACTIC in certain cases where clinical and social reasons for its use exist. The scientific elements regarding its anticonceptive effect have been established by Dr. Kionka, Professor, Pharmaceutical Institute, University of Jena, by means of experimental research, and have been practically tested. It is the duty of scientific research to find out the absolute truth and to test it. The actual test of the anticonceptive effect of the SPETON TABLETS upon the Sperma was made with favourable results, both under the microscope and in practice, and for this reason we are confident that we are in possession of a safe prophylactic protection against undesirable pregnancy.

THE TEMMLER CHEMICAL WORKS in BERLIN-JOHANNISTHAL have by the manufacture and introduction of the SPETON preparation rendered a great service, not only to Science and the Medical Profession, but they have also contributed considerably to the solution of a question of social and economic politics, which cannot be underestimated, namely the question of over-population.

The small space allotted to a scientific treatise does not permit me to consider other points, which present themselves with regard to the whole problem of the social and economic needs of this otherwise enlightened and humane age.

It would be very desirable if Birth Control could be regulated by the Universal Law of the Empire. The State and the Community must undertake this useful and important duty, the care of the Public Health. Places for Consultation regarding Marriage would be really beneficial if the question of Birth Control were included in their activities.

Birth Control meanwhile has become a corner stone of Race-Hygiene and will result in the restoration to health and the elevation of the whole nation. By the rational exercise of Birth Control a great deal of Social and Economic Evil would disappear. Humanity feels the urgent need that inferior individuals should not be conceived or brought into the world.

In SPETON TABLETS Science has provided us with a reliable means for the regulation and prevention of conception, so that children should only be brought into existence if the parents are in a position to take care of them, nourish them and educate them in order that they may become useful members of the Human Community. Then we shall have fewer inhabitants of Lunatic Asylums and Prisons, which as we know cost the State much money, and cause much trouble to the Municipal Authorities.

A perfect race can only be obtained by a sensible and judicious Birth Control, and it should be the honourable and praiseworthy duty of our generation to stand up for and further this high ideal.

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The Journal of Hygiene, Vol. XXIX., No. 3, Dec., 1929.
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