

VD - despite modern medicine - increasing

Dr. Donald Barr, concerned with the health of his clientele of Ryerson students, has launched a campaign to make students aware of the presence of Venereal Disease.

"People being the way they are, I don't think we'll ever rid ourselves of the problem," says Dr. Barr, "but we can educate people to recognize the symptoms and see what will do towards alleviating the problem."

VD, Dr. Barr points out, is increasing in frequency in spite of modern medicine, and poses a greater threat each day. He hopes that his "push on awareness" will turn the trend to a downward angle.

GONORRHEA: In the male, a drip from the penis, a burning sensation or pain during urination, may all be symptoms of gonorrhea. In the female, no such symptoms may appear, for the infections may be so hidden inside the vaginal tract that they escape detection.

SYPHILLIS: The well known symptoms of this unpleasant bacteria is the chancre (pronounced shhhhhhhanker) which appears in the genital area. It is not to be confused with a pimple, for the syphillis chancre appears as an area of skin which seems to be rubbed off and is hard underneath. It appears 4 to 6 weeks after exposure and again in the female may be hidden inside the vaginal tract.

In later stages of the disease, a general rash may appear on any part of the body often along with open sores. At this stage, the disease can be transmitted by other than sexual contact.

In late stages of syphillis, "gummas" form on any of the bodily organs and begin to destroy the normal tissue. GPI or General Insanity often follows as the entire nervous system is attacked.

Gonorrhea, if left untreated can cause sterility and a variety of colorful pelvic inflammatory damage.

Positive detection of the presence of the deadly bacteria, is accomplished in a series of three "smear" tests, spaced over as many weeks. Dr. Barr emphasised that one examination is not always enough to prove conclusively that you do not have VD, though often it may indicate that you do have it.

education a solution

Treatment, a painless and absolute cure, involves the gulping of 500 mg. of Tetracycline 4 times daily for five days, in standard cases.

Also involved in treatment is the unpleasant procedure of researching your recent history with the inevitable ques-

tion "Where did you get it from?" and "Who have you given it too?" Nevertheless, these questions are *MOST* necessary in fighting the spread of Venereal Disease.

To save anyone the embarrassment of having their excuse shot to ribbons, you may as well be told again: one virtually cannot get VD from a toilet seat as the bacteria will die if exposed to such conditions.

Thus the necessity of tracing the disease through your sexual history and doing it fast. The speed with which VD can travel from person to person, like an inverted pyramid, is staggering. Dr. Barr, however, emphasized that all tracings are done through trained personnel at the Department of Health and with utmost regard for the anonymity of the persons involved.

Condoms, says Dr. Barr, are the most effective means of VD prevention, but with the advent of the widespread use of the pill to combat pregnancy, have been largely forgotten. As of September 30, 16 condom machines had been placed in washrooms around Ryerson, and in September they dispensed 132 condoms.

Even though V.D. is on the increase, and condoms are the best protective device available, there are no condom vending machines at UPEI. Many campuses across Canada have these vending machines, including Ryerson, in Toronto.

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