

18th May, 1943.

Mitor
Daily Telegraph"
BY.

Sir,

It is time that we paused and took stock of our national health and of our moral standards. What are we doing to protect young girls? Hundreds of them have been seduced and infected with disease. Many have had abortions performed, many are about to become mothers, many have been arrested and committed to houses of detention; and horror upon horrors, as soon as one lot of girls are removed from the streets another lot are sucked into the cesspool of vice.

Why is this evil allowed to flourish in our midst? Why the flower of our young womanhood, the future mothers of Australia, allowed to be debauched and diseased? One reason is that instead of trying to stamp out immorality and disease, those in control have tried to make sex indulgence safe. Never in history has there been any safe way of indulging promiscuously in sex. Immorality and disease go hand in hand. There is only one way of avoiding disease and it is an infallible preventive, and that is chastity.

Instead of persecuting and humiliating and terrorising the silly children who are lured by the blandishments and the uniforms and the cash of those who seduce and infect them, we should direct our attention to the seducers. We have a law in Australia that provides severe penalties for the carnal knowledge of a girl under 16, with or without her consent. Instead of raiding residential and only detaining the girls, let the men found with the girls be detained and charged and brought before our courts.

I have been to a number of meetings lately where men have spoken of the spread of Venereal Disease and immorality, and almost without exception they have blamed the girls for spreading the disease and spoken of the need to protect the men.

Where is man's sense of justice, of chivalry, where is his common sense? Can a man of 20-40 years of age require protection against girls of 13 - 20? Can he be overpowered and assaulted by these girls? The blame for the seduction of girls and the spread of disease must be placed where it belongs and that is on the shoulders of the men concerned. Any man found in bed or in compromising circumstances with a young girl should be detained and persecuted.

It is time the facts were faced. It must be recognised that a certain number of men are debauchers and perverts. While these men are at large they will continue to seduce and debauch girls and to poison and destroy the springs of Australia's life. They are a greater danger in our midst than a small-pox patient or a forger, or a thief, or a murderer. They must be removed from society. It is the only way.

The laws of supply and demand require this approach. Our recent experience in Australia has shown that this law applies to the traffic in sex indulgence as surely as it does to any other in general. Remove those who create the demand and the supply will not be called into being. Our girls only want to have a little fun and excitement. No doubt they are often silly and ignorant - but they are not bad and they are not diseased until they have been seduced and infected by some man.

Yours faithfully,

(Jessie M. G. Street)