

# DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 10, NO. 324.

NEW YORK, FRIDAY, MAY 20, 1910.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

## THAT DAINTY “HOME.”

By DANIEL DE LEON

**G**IVE’M rope, and, without exception, the class, that to-day sets up the claim of being the bright particular protector of the “purity of the home” will hang themselves, high and dry.

In MacFadden’s *Physical Culture*, for last February John Milo Maxwell has an article that he entitles “The Man Who Dared,” but the importance of which deserves a less personal title, say, “The Lid Off the Capitalist Home.” In a nutshell the story is this:

Shocking instances of the pollution spread by venereal diseases in Bellefontaine, O., having come to the notice of the town’s Mayor, William R. Niven, he set the machinery of his mind in motion to check, if not stop, the contagion. The statutes of the State of Ohio make it the duty of physicians to report to the local Health Officer all cases that come within their knowledge of small-pox, cholera, plague, etc., etc., “or any other disease dangerous to the public health.” Venereal diseases are not among the diseases specifically enumerated in the statute. Mayor Niven construed them to be covered by the clause “or any other disease dangerous to the public health.” Agreeable to this construction, the Mayor issued a warrant for the arrest of a leading physician who failed to report a case of syphilis which he had been treating. The issue was thus presented for the construction of the law. The Mayor maintained that the statute was clear, and, under it, failure to report cases of venereal diseases was a violation of the law which prescribes the duties of physicians. The State Board of Health held a different opinion. It held the statute never was intended to cover the so-called social diseases; but, being confronted with the official circular issued by the Secretary of the Ohio State Board of Health specifically naming venereal infections as “both contagious and infectious,” the Board came out candidly with its real objection to the enforcement of the law. It

said that although the diseases were infections {infectious} *any attempt to report them would lead to the gravest social consequences in that many homes would be broken up should publicity be given to this class of diseases.*

It is the hour of danger that wrings the truth from the chest of Hypocrisy. The truth has been wrung, through the Ohio State Board of Health, from the chest of the Hypocrite Class whose social system pollutes the family, yet have the brass to pose as the guardians of the "purity of the home."

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official website of the Socialist Labor Party of America.  
Uploaded May 2011

[slpns@slp.org](mailto:slpns@slp.org)