

Bureau of Investigation

M. SAYLE TAYLOR

"America's Doctor of Matrimony" Who Claims to Reveal the Mysteries of Sex

"Dr." M. Sayle Taylor goes about the country discoursing on sex, selling books and pamphlets on the same subject and exploiting a "patent medicine" which seems to have been called, variously, "Vagitone" and, more recently, "La-Fon." Vagitone used to come as a liquid, but when the name was changed, it was put out in powder form. Taylor also sells a vaginal douching device that he calls "Vagispray." M. Sayle Taylor's present activities are of comparatively recent date. Some five or six years ago, Taylor is said to have been superintendent of schools in North Bend, Oregon. While in that city, he is said to have become associated with a Mr. and Mrs. Westheffer in leasing a hotel. After Mr. Westheffer's death M. Sayle Taylor left North Bend in 1926.

M. Sayle Taylor has appeared at motion-picture theaters in connection with films of an erotic character; at other times, he has given "stage presentations" in which were used "living models" and "human charts." Three or four years ago, Taylor was in Chicago appearing in connection with a motion picture entitled "Streets of Sorrow." The Chicago *Tribune's* motion-

"This Billy Sunday of the sex world says his name is Dr. M. Sayle Taylor and that his title is president of 'The National Society of Eugenics—strictly philanthropic.' His 'message' is so appallingly crude and nastily nauseating that at first the stronger stomachs of the audience are inclined toward lusty laughter. However, they gradually succumb to the wizardry of his eloquence, until, at the end, they are whipped into a frenzy of morbid sensationalism. At that point comes the high powered salesmanship. Three paper pamphlets, dealing with the mating instinct and other problems appertaining thereto, are produced, and sold for a dollar a set. . . . 'The ushers will now pass among you, gents. Your first and last chance to get this startling information—and all for one little dollar bill.' . . . The ushers are usherettes of, apparently, immature years.

"At first the doctor impressed me as a learned man become an introspective entomologist on the subject of sex. But when I saw the cash register developing a hotbox I concluded there might be laughter in his lunacy. The man of science explained that he had intended to demonstrate with graphic charts and beautiful pictures, but that the City Hall wouldn't permit it. I shudder to think what might have been unfolded before my eyes had not Mr. Bill Thompson and his minions stepped in and preserved my innocence.

"As for 'Streets of Sorrow': The doctor took up so much time that I could stay for only the fore part of the movie. What I saw was a mawkish oversexed overdone, amateurish attempt to depict post-war Vienna. Noting that it featured Greta Garbo, I sought to learn the year of its vintage, but could find no date indicated. Acting, direction, plot, and photography were equally bad. At the point where I made my regretful departure the soulful-eyed Miss Garbo had just accepted extra money from her employer. What thereupon took place or happened to the poor working gel I can only surmise."

In June, 1930, Taylor was putting on his stuff in New Orleans and the papers, at that time, reported that M. Sayle Taylor had been arrested "on the charge of operating a disorderly house." The District Attorney reported that Taylor claimed at first to be a medical man, but this was found to be false, and that he also claimed to be well known in London; this, too, was found to be false. Taylor offered to close up and leave town and as the officials' object was to stop his so-called lectures, he was permitted to do so and the case was dismissed.

When Taylor was in New York in 1929, he was forced by the authorities to drop the title "Dr." before his name. There, apparently, he was working the "stage-presentation" scheme, for according to a report that appeared in the New York *Herald-Tribune* at the time: "At the close of his lecture, the fat, thin, tall, short and normal girls paraded on to the stage in bathing suits," as a *piece de resistance* for the "women-only" audience, Taylor announced, "If you will all just wait, you will see the perfect man." And, as the *Herald-Tribune* stated, "not a woman budged until 'Samsted' had finished his classical posing."

As has already been mentioned, Taylor has for sale a number of little pamphlets that bear such intriguing titles as: "Facts for Wives—Plain Truths About Marriage"; "The Secret of Youth and Charm: Plain Sex Truths for Women"; "Natural Birth Control and Predetermination of Sex"; "How to Know Your Affinity: A Study of Glands"; "Sex Vigor: How Retained; How Regained."

These little brochures (about four inches by six inches in size and from twelve to thirty-two pages) come in highly-colored paper covers and are listed at 50 cents each. They are poorly printed on cheap paper, and when produced in quantities, should not cost more than one cent apiece to turn out.

A study of some of these brings out the interesting fact that the pamphlet, "The Secret of Youth and Charm," which comes in a cream-colored cover, is identical, except for a few additional lines, with "Facts for Wives," which comes in an orange-colored cover. Various booklets repeat entire paragraphs.

The image shows two side-by-side advertising posters for M. Sayle Taylor's shows. The left poster is titled "Men! SEX-MYSTERIES UNVEILED!" and features the text "The Only Scientific Exposure of TRUE MARRIAGE Ever Shown!" and "DR. M. SAYLE TAYLOR'S 'Married Love' Solving the Problems of Lost Manhood and Showing How to Retain Virility, Power and Pep". It specifies "MEN ONLY" and "ENTIRE WEEK, DEC. 9-3 SHOWS DAILY MATINEES, 2:15—NIGHTS, 8:15". The right poster is titled "WOMEN! ONE LAST CHANCE FRIDAY MATINEE, 2.15" and "MEN ONLY FRIDAY NIGHT, SATURDAY MATINEE AND EVENING SEE AND HEAR DR. M. SAYLE TAYLOR in 'MARRIED LOVE'". It describes it as "A Solution of the Most Intimate Problems of Marriage and Womanhood Revealing the Mysteries of Sex" and lists showtimes for women (Friday 2:15) and men (Every Night and Saturday Matinee). Both posters include the "PARKWAY THEATRE DELAWARE AT ADAMS" logo and the note "NO ONE UNDER 18 YEARS ADMITTED".

Photographic reproduction (greatly reduced) of some typical M. Sayle Taylor advertising.

picture critic is a woman and because Taylor, at that time, was advertising that his show was for "Men Only," she asked one of the men on the staff of that paper to drop in and report what he found. Mr. Babcock, the reporter in question, gave what we believe to be the best description yet of Taylor's performance and it is revealing enough to be quoted at some length:

"CHICAGO YOKELS READY VICTIMS OF ANCIENT 'MEN ONLY' STUFF"

"The 'Men Only' show now running at the Rose theater is the choicest bit of boob bait to be found in the loop. It is the old outdoor medicine show, the street carnival 'anatomy' show, a 'Way Down East-Lulu Belle-Shanghai Gesture' production, and the old army game all wrapped up for the price of one. The loud speaker at the Rose screams to the passerby on Madison Street that here is a sensational exposé of sex. The passing sucker pauses, and bites. Inside, after separating himself from 50 cents for admission, he is inveigled into forking over a dollar for further 'information.' And this, mind you, in the heart of civilized, sophisticated Chicago. The performance purports to be the unreeing of a movie entitled 'Streets of Sorrow'—and special features.' They consist of a news reel and a lengthy discourse by the self-styled sex evangelist of the world.

Taylor also puts out a little more elaborate book, "The Male Motor," which when bound in cloth is listed at \$1.50. It appears that the thing essentially is a treatise devoted to the puffing of a device called the "Thermalaid," a rectal dilator with a rheostat attachment, sold by the Electro Thermal Company of Steubenville, Ohio. Incidentally, the publisher's statement shows that the book is issued from Steubenville, Ohio.

As has already been stated, Taylor sells an alleged douche medicament which used to be called Vagitone, and under that name was put out by the Hygienic Orificial Company, which in its advertising matter sometimes gave its address as 361 West Superior Street, Chicago, and sometimes as 711 Sedgwick Street—two addresses for different entrances to the same building. A few weeks ago, a visit to 361 West Superior Street disclosed that the Hygienic Orificial Company was gone and, apparently, had left no forwarding address. It appears now that M. Sayle Taylor does business from 2029 North Halstead Street, Chicago, under the name La-Fon Laboratories, Inc., said to be successors to the Hygienic Orificial Company, Inc. Further, as has already been stated, the name of his product has been changed from Vagitone to La-Fon.

Recently, M. Sayle Taylor was working Virginia and a telegram was received from a gentleman in Lynchburg, asking for information on this person, who was scheduled for a week's "lectures" in that city. The information was sent and we now learn that Taylor was not permitted to put on his "show." It will be interesting to see just how long Taylor will be able to continue in his present field of endeavor.

Queries and Minor Notes

ANONYMOUS COMMUNICATIONS and queries on postal cards will not be noticed. Every letter must contain the writer's name and address, but these will be omitted, on request.

CARDIAC MANIFESTATIONS IN SYPHILIS

To the Editor:—A white man, aged 41, a painter, well developed and nourished, and apparently in excellent health, came to me, Nov. 23, 1931, because of a skin condition over the region of the right temple. This was attributed to a scratch from a barber's comb received about a year ago. Shortly after, a purplish rash developed on the left forearm and persisted. The lesions did not cause symptoms, but because they did not disappear I was consulted. Other than the fact that the patient indulges moderately in beer and alcoholic beverages, and is an inveterate tobacco chewer, the history is entirely irrelevant. Examination revealed an indurated papular lesion over the right temple extending on to the pinna of the ear, and a tuberoseriginous lesion on the left forearm and on the right nates. An enlarged left epitrochlear gland was palpable, but no other abnormalities were noted. The heart was regular, with a rate of 80 beats a minute; the blood pressure was 128 systolic and 80 diastolic; no murmurs or other adventitious sounds were heard. While there were no visceral signs evident, a presumptive diagnosis of a tertiary syphilitic was made. A Wassermann reaction ascertained by the board of health was reported as 4 plus. Treatment was begun, 1.5 cc. of a bismuth compound being given intramuscularly on November 30 and December 2, 8 and 15. This was alternated with nearsphenamine intravenously, 0.45 Gm. on December 5 and 12, which was tolerated well. December 19, 0.6 Gm. of arsphenamine was administered intravenously with apparently no immediate ill effects. About twelve hours later the patient began to experience a "jumpy" sensation around the heart, which occurred rather frequently but did not interfere with his work. Examination revealed a marked degree of irregularity with extrasystoles and superimposed beats. The blood pressure was 130 systolic and 70 diastolic. No more nearsphenamine was given, and the patient is now on a regimen of iodides and mercury and bismuth preparations. The cardiac irregularity persists at the present writing. Would you consider the development of the cardiac signs as evidence of a latent syphilitic myocarditis, activated by the arsenical? What effect would nicotine through the use of chewing tobacco have on the heart? What course of treatment would you outline in view of the condition that has developed? Would you kindly furnish references in the literature pertinent to the development of cardiac irregularities after the use of arsphenamine? Please omit name.

M.D., New York.

ANSWER.—Syphilitic aortitis is a frequent complication of late syphilis. The information provided in the query as to the patient's physical status before treatment omits two or three important points on which the diagnosis depends. In a patient with known late syphilis, the presence of any three of the following criteria is strong evidence in favor of the diagnosis of syphilitic aortitis: (1) teleröntgenographic and fluoroscopic evidence of aortic dilatation, (2) increased retromanubrial dul-

ness, (3) a history of circulatory embarrassment, (4) a tympanic bell-like tambour accentuation of the aortic second sound, (5) progressive cardiac failure, (6) substernal pain and (7) paroxysmal dyspnea. Syphilitic myocarditis is probably rare, the myocardial changes that occur in patients with syphilitic heart disease being usually due to the mechanical effects of circulatory embarrassment.

The occurrence of persistent extrasystoles after several injections of nearsphenamine suggests that the patient may have an unrecognized syphilitic aortitis, and it would be safer to treat the patient as if this diagnosis were definite. This is in spite of the fact that the excessive use of chewing tobacco may cause ventricular extrasystoles as readily as excessive smoking.

In view of the presumptive diagnosis of syphilitic aortitis, it would be advisable to keep the patient on bismuth preparations and potassium iodide for two or three months before any effort is made to give further arsenical drugs. When arsenical drugs are resumed, either nearsphenamine or sulpharsphenamine bismuth may be used. The dose of nearsphenamine should not exceed 0.45 Gm. Further treatment should be carried on as outlined in a paper by J. E. Moore and J. H. Danglade on the treatment of cardiovascular syphilis (*Am. Heart J.* 6:148 [Oct.] 1930). A fluoroscopic and teleröntgenographic examination of the cardiovascular stripe should be done promptly. The further use of alcohol and tobacco should be prohibited.

Cardiac irregularities after the use of the arsphenamines are uncommon and usually occur in patients with preexisting cardiovascular syphilis. The following references may be consulted:

- Reid, W. D.: The Mechanism of the Toxic Action of Arsphenamine on the Heart, *THE JOURNAL*, March 21, 1925, p. 883.
Wilson, F. N.; Wile, U. J.; Wishart, S. W., and Herrmann, G. R.: Changes in the Electrocardiogram Following the Arsphenamine Treatment of Cardiac and Aortic Syphilis, *Proc. Soc. Exper. Biol. & Med.* 23: 275, 1926.

DIGESTIBILITY OF COW'S MILK

To the Editor:—Is there a test which can be applied to a cow's milk to determine how digestible that certain milk is? If so, what is the test, how is it made and just how dependable is it? An intelligent dairyman stated that Dr. Abt of Chicago had recommended the test and that herds had been accumulated all the cows of which gave milk that was easily digested. He also stated that such cows gave such milk throughout their entire lives. He was contemplating getting several cows of this sort and advertising their milk for babies only. The cows he already has are all Jerseys and give a milk high in butter fat and for that reason I have not recommended his milk for my feeders. If such cows do exist, would it be safe to feed a baby a milk with a high butter fat content? I must say that this is all new to me in spite of the fact that I have been doing pediatric work for years and try my darndest to keep in sight of the parade at least. Please omit name.

M.D., Arkansas.

ANSWER.—There is probably no satisfactory test that can be applied to cow's milk to determine its digestibility. Cow's milk derived from the various races of animals differs in the quantity of fat as well as in protein content.

Van Slyke and Publow give the following analyses: Jersey milk contains 5.78 per cent fat; Guernsey, 5.38 per cent; Ayrshire, 3.76 per cent; Holstein, 3.26 per cent. In addition to this the fat globules in Holstein and Ayrshire milk are small, while those of Guernsey and Jersey milk are considerably larger. The digestibility of the milk in all probability does not depend on these factors alone.

In this connection, however, the bulletin of the Utah Agricultural Experiment Station for June, 1928, written by R. L. Hill, calls attention to an apparatus for measuring curd tension, which is a measure of toughness or softness of the milk curd. Hill believes that he found by this method a plan for determining the digestibility of cow's milk by babies. He believes that the milk with a low curd tension is more readily digested than the milk with a high curd tension, and he observes further that, after having examined many breeds of cattle, all show both extremes in curd tension. He assumes that the curd character of the milk is not a breed characteristic. However, a larger percentage of some breeds give soft curded milk than others. He also thinks that the presence of butter fat in milk tends to soften the curd, and that the fat content of the milk is not an index of its curd character. It is generally agreed that boiling milk increases its digestibility.

It seems fair to assume, however, that the mere softness or hardness of the milk curd will not completely solve the problem of digestibility of cow's milk. The digestive ferments of the infant have been planned to digest breast milk and consequently there may be occasional difficulties on the part of the baby in the digestion of any foreign milk. The digestion of the infant will always depend on the proper development of the necessary ferments in quantity and quality, and its tolerance for food will depend on a sufficient quantity of ferments and on the rapidity of their action.