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principal controversialists, two (Fathers Donovan and Leboure) were proponents, three (Fathers de Becker, Rigby, and Schmitt) opponents. The arguments were generally in Latin, and centred about these points, viz., the right of a Catholic physician to perform the operation of vasectomy or castration for any but a pathological reason; the right of an individual to submit to such an operation voluntarily for any but a medical necessity; the right of the State (from the ecclesiastical point of view) to permanently deprive an individual of an inherent and God-given right which he would otherwise enjoy by civil law, if society can be protected from his misdeeds by any other methods; and finally, "is vasectomy a mutilation?" The arguments were for the most part theological, and no conclusions appear to have been reached on any of these points, both sides leaving off practically where they began. The preponderance of Roman Catholic sentiment, however, at the present time is undoubtedly opposed to any form of sterilization as a Eugenic measure. In Pennsylvania it is said a sterilization bill was defeated in the Legislature solely by the strong opposition of one Roman Catholic member, who considered it an unjustifiable mutilation.

Among social workers, professional and otherwise, there appears to be a growing interest in sterilization, but doubt about its practicability. It is thought of as more or less brutal. By some the eugenicist's attitude is represented as being opposed to humanitarian efforts for the amelioration of conditions of life which burden and handicap the masses, and finally submerge the "tenth." Dr. Edward T. Devine, Professor of Sociology in Columbia University, in an impassioned address at the annual dinner of the Academy of Political Science in New York, recently said: "There are those . . . who have been making extraordinary applications of this Eugenics idea, who have been telling us that philanthropy, the improvement of social conditions, the prevention of child labour, the elimination of infectious diseases, and the like, are to be condemned as contrary to the fundamental and vital interests of the race. Just as in the past war, famine and pestilence were essential to progress . . . , so now we have the slums, tuberculosis, typhoid, industrial accidents, child labour, a twelve-hour day, and a seven day week . . . performing in our day the same beneficent functions." After a vigorous protest against this doctrine, he closed thus: "our last word is of rehabilitation, reintegration, redemption."

The committee has recently received letters from the Governors of Vermont and Kentucky asking for information regarding legislation, and strongly endorsing the proposition that defectives, degenerates, and confirmed criminals should be sterilized. Both hope soon to secure legislation in their respective States legalizing the operation. From officials in several other States inquiries have been received regarding legislation and what has been done elsewhere. It seems probable, therefore, that similar laws will soon be enacted in other States.