

A Criticism of:

"SCIENTIFIC BIRTH CONTROL FROM A MEDICAL ASPECT"

Issued by:

Messrs Coates and Cooper, Ltd.,
94 Clerkenwell Road, LONDON E.C.1

Product:

SPETON

Before going into details there are some general points which should be discussed:

"anti-conceptive" This term occurs throughout the brochure and should be contraceptive.

Chemical terminology:

The chloramine derivative present in Speton should be written:

Sodium dichloro-p-sulphamido benzoate
You can use -chloro or chloryl; also -p-
or -para.

There is no such thing as -benzoic acid sodium.

In fact nearly every time it is written there is some discrepancy in this formula.

The use of Speton: Two arguments are followed and co-mingled; It is suggested that Speton should not only be used as a contraceptive but as a vaginal disinfectant for the treatment of leucorrhoea.

A further study of the problem will show that if it kills bacteria, when used as a contraceptive it will leave a bacteriologically sterile vagina opening the way to an infection with foreign organisms.

Thus these problems must be carefully

studied with the realization that the
the two may actually be antagonistic.

Speton does not dissolve and it is not soluble; in any case
you are using the wrong terms. What
you want is disintegrate.

Several passages appear to be direct translations from the
German; word for word. Now there are
many words and phrases which are in-
capable of this treatment and must be
loosely translated or given as the
English equivalent.
Spermatozoid germs = spermatozoa

Typographical and errors of slight nature are omitted.

1. Title page: "SCIENTIFIC BIRTH CONTROL FROM A MEDICAL ASPECT"
The two underlined words should set the tenor of the brochure;
References 1,2,3,5 might be classed in this category but
Mr. Cooper tersely expressed the value of most of the liter-
ature when he stated that it could be readily bought at so
much a page. This fact is well known and it is for this
reason that only references from well known reputable medical
and scientific journals, or text-books of similar standing
should be quoted.
2. Extracts: Not medical, sociological if you like; Nothing more
recent than 1928.
3. Sociological views again intruded into the middle of the medical
section.
4. "...heart mischief..." ??
Condoms omitted; they are discussed later with reference to
this list.
Chinosol omitted; also later discussed.
5. The whole of this paragraph and the succeeding page appears to be
based upon the views of these two workers who are probably
foremost authorities upon male dysfunction. We therefore find
that we are dealing with a picked population. We must realise
that 1,400,000 condoms are reported to be daily manufactured
for the American market alone, and hence presumably used. One
may dislike the condom but one must face up to the fact that
no method is so universally used, is so universally applicable,
if we except personal prejudice, and can give such a high
percentage/

percentage of successes. These are facts that must be faced up to. The foam tablet can never replace the condom.

Page 5. "All mechanical contrivances". Here again it is the considered opinion of nearly all the birth control clinics that an occlusive pessary of some type or another is both harmless and successful. It may not be ideal and they will welcome any method which promises still greater advantages; till they are convinced of these latter they will not, and cannot be expected to, change.

PP2. "The Ideal contraceptive". Dickinson and Bryant, and Baker have both drawn up a list of the various points which have to be considered. The latter indeed emphasises that a foaming preparation, small and solid, is what is required. I may state that I profoundly disagree with his views upon this point.

Are you so certain that the action is immediate ?

Page 6. Not "pessaries".

The differences and variations which are introduced into the chloramine derivative on this and the following page are striking.

dichloro-p-sulphamido-benzoate dioxysuccinic acid !!

No metallic radical; two compounds; should be tartaric acid.

PP3. Not "bacterial"; bactericidal;

See criticism at commencement also article in Eugenics Review. Spermicidal effect: Compare the work of Steinhauser, Baker and my own.

Page 7. Volume of fluid in the vagina. 10c.c. Where do you get this figure from? Great assumption.

Florey's work on Speton in vaginae of animals. Different species to the human. See also Eugenics Review article.

Page 8. You cannot ASSUME; you must know. A confession such as this destroys any faith that the reader might have in the literature.

Page 9. The para. "Dr. Baker in his report...." is very clever but the context is rather left out....?

PP4. Vaginal antisepsis. Same remarks as before.

Page 10 I cannot see how these paragraphs indicate that Speton
PP2,3,4. are ideal. The first is purely a general argument;
the second is somewhat similar and is applicable to
several other contraceptives; the third does not
seem to really hang upon any of the previous arguments
and seems to give the impression of having been just
tacked on.

PP5. If Speton tablets have been known to the Medical Profess-
ion for more than 30 years then surely you can produce
more evidence of their reliability. There is nothing
in this paragraph or in the following ones on page 11
to give any real information upon this point and the
less said about PP3, the translation from the German,
the better, viz., sperma, spermatozoid Speton substance,
laboratory work not clinical etc.

Page 11
Page 13 Dissolves readily....".....however small in quantity".
Really? How honestly does it?
"The neutral solution formed....". Possibly, but you see
it should not be a neutral solution!!

Page 14 "Three minutes....". Much too short a time.
".....as far as possible into the vagina....". You must
realize that if this is done it may well be pushed
into the posterior fornix; in such a position it may
well be so shut off from the rest of the vagina that
even IF there is a certain amount of secretion it
will not reach the tablet.

References

The following are of little value in this country:
4-10, 13-17.