

**THE SOCIAL EVIL IN UNIVERSITY  
LIFE: A TALK WITH  
THE STUDENTS OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA**

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The Social Evil in University Life: A Talk with the Students of the University of Pennsylvania  
by Robert N. Willson

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**ROBERT N. WILLSON**

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# The Social Evil in University Life

A TALK WITH THE STUDENTS OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

By  
*Willson*  
ROBERT N. WILLSON, M.D.

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FOR MEN ONLY

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Author and publisher desire to enlist the co-operation of every person who reads this book to further the dissemination of the information it contains. The complete contents of this book in smaller type, printed in pamphlet form, is furnished in lots of 50, 100, and upwards, to persons desiring to purchase them for FREE DISTRIBUTION. Price, postpaid, 50 copies, 75 cents (3 shillings); 100 copies, \$1.50 (6 shillings). The pamphlet is not sold in single copies.

*General lit*  
7-13-03

## INTRODUCTION.

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The universal acquaintance of young men with the facts contained in this book would tend greatly to reduce the sum total of human suffering and misery. The social evil and venereal diseases are not confined to the ignorant and degraded classes. It prevails alike among the educated and those who are intelligent upon other subjects, but who are wholly uninformed and ignorant upon this subject. Socrates was correct when he said "Ignorance is vice." To disseminate this information will work a revolution in human thinking, in human conduct and even in character itself—it will help to dispel ignorance, to abate vice and exalt virtue, now so much obscured and so little recognized.

The fitness of Dr. Willson to perform what he has accomplished in this

address is manifest. With the experience afforded him as physician and confidential adviser to the hundreds of young men constituting a University community, with a thorough understanding of his subject, and a profound personal interest in young men themselves, but few physicians are so well qualified to speak upon the subject of the social evil and its consequences as he. His motive was not money; his inspiration was his love for the men he was seeking to save.

May I seek to enlist in the widest possible dissemination of the information contained in the following pages, and in the circulation of the booklet itself, the large number of people everywhere who love their fellow-men and who would do them good?

SYLVANUS STALL.

PHILADELPHIA, PA.



## THE SOCIAL EVIL IN UNIVERSITY LIFE.

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A TALK WITH THE STUDENTS OF  
THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA.

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I congratulate those of you, to-day, who are just entering this old University! Those who have already learned to call her Alma Mater need no word from me to tell them of the joys and responsibilities of college life. It is because some of us older college boys have learned just what you are to encounter in the four years of city and university experience, that we have called you together for a frank talk on matters that will have a vital influence on your college and after-careers.

You will have guarding over your interests, and watching with a keen and

kindly eye your successes and failures, one of the warmest-hearted men that our Provost's chair has ever held. In the midst of responsibilities that would bend the shoulders of an ordinary man, you will find that he has a smile and a grasp of the hand for each one of you, no matter how unimportant you may consider yourself to be in your particular sphere of activity. He wishes you simply to assure him that you are active in that sphere. I have learned to know him as a man whose aim in life to-day is the genuine benefit and happiness of young men like you and me.

In close touch with your Provost, and equally a man, you will learn to know and love one of the best friends of my college days, and one who learns for the first time to-day, perhaps, that his influence was stronger than almost any other in making my college life of whatever value to myself and others it may chance to be. If he could but know how many men have left these walls with

the same sentiment in their breasts, he would tell you, as I now do, that he has not lived in vain. I have seen Vice-Provost Smith, in the midst of his day's work, stop as each of a number of thoughtless students pushed his way into the office, and show the same warm interest in the last one that sent the first away with the feeling that he had talked with a friend and one whom he could trust.

For myself, I can simply say that I have worked among you as one of your University physicians for over three years, and that I have considered my work a rare privilege and a sacred trust. I have learned many things of student life which escaped me while a student myself; and I have learned the value, during these thirteen years of college associations, of the opportunity of looking on many of the problems that will soon come before you. Perhaps they mean more to me because I have seen many of them both from the standpoint