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## Letter From Francis Mairs Huntington-Wilson to William H. Zinsser, January 10, 1918

Francis Mairs Huntington-Wilson

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January 10, 1918.

My dear Sir:

Allow me very tardily to acknowledge your letter of September 25, setting forth the splendid efforts of your Committee in combating venereal diseases.

I last summer corresponded with Mr. Jerome D. Greene, and through him made the largest contribution I could afford for this work through the Society for Social Hygiene, in whose work I have long been interested.

I could not overemphasize my appreciation of the absolutely vital importance of your Committee's work. In my own opinion, the present is a Heaven-sent moment for making the advances that ordinarily would have taken generations in educating public opinion frankly and fully on the subject of venereal diseases. Equally important to the crucial national interest of the quality of the American people are the simple fundamentals of eugenics, the broad aspects of sex hygiene, and the inculcation of the patriotic duty of parenthood on the part of the fit. Now as never before is there an opportunity to break down the stubborn traditions of mystery, false modesty, ignorance and the double standard in sex matters. I feel so strongly about all this that I cannot help wondering why your Committee, in conjunction with the Society for Social Hygiene, does not bestir itself on broad lines commensurate with what seems to me to be a vast opportunity for national service in regard to the civilian as well as the military population. I should think that by concerted action the clergy of the different churches, the Universities, the schools, the press, and many other instrumentalities might be used for a propaganda so striking as to be revolutionary in its vast benefits to our country.

With every good wish for the success of your most important work, and regretting that I do not feel that I can just now add to the financial contribution already made, I am, my dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

William H. Zinsser, Esq.,

105 West 40th Street,

New York.