Hasan ‘Ali al-Misri. ‘Da’ al-Zahri wa al-Zawwaj’ [Syphilis and Marriage]. *Al-Hilal*, 15 Oct. 1900: pp. 47-8.

داء الزهري والزواج.

﴿القاهرة﴾ حسن أفندي علي المصري.

قرأت في بعض أجزاء الهلال أن داء الزهري (التشويش) قد ينتقل بالوراثة إلى الأعقاب وأعقابهم إلى الجيل الرّابع والخامس، فاستنتجت من ذلك أن المصاب به خير له أن لا يتزوّج. وقد لقيت صديقًا لي أصيب في شبابه بالداء المذكور ثم تعالج فشفي وعلمت أنه عازم على الاقتران فأوعزت إليه أن لا يفعل وذكرت له قول الهلال. فما كان جوابه إلا كتابًا استخرجه من جيبه ودفعه إليّ وإذا هو شهادة له من طبيب بأنه لا ضرر من زواجه فسكتُّ وبادرت إلى كتابة هذا ملتمسًا رأيكم في ذلك.

﴿**الهلال**﴾ للداء الزهري ثلاث درجات فمن أصيب بالدّرجة الأولى منه وعولج حالًا أُسرع شفاؤه وربما نجا من الخطر في زواجه. أما إذا بلغ إلى الدّرجة الثّانية أو الثالثة وظهرت فيه البثور المعلومة وتأثرت العظام وغيرها فإنّه يكون قد تأصّل في البدن. على أنّه قد يشفى ولا يبقى له أثر في جلد المريض. ولكنّه يبقى معرضًا له طول حياته وزواجه خطر شديد. وعندنا أنّ من يبلغ فيه الزهري إلى هذه الدرجة ولو عولج وشفي فهو مطالب بالذّمة والضمير أن يمتنع عن الزواج من تلقاء نفسه. وإلّا فإنه يجرّ البلاء عليه وعلى امرأته وأولاده (إذا ولد له أولاد) ولو لم يظهر الداء فيهم في طفوليتهم [طفولتهم؟] فإنه يظهر في صبوتهم أو شبوبيتهم [شبوبتهم؟] وقد يكمن فيهم ويظهر في أولادهم وأولاد أولادهم كما ذكرتم. ولكن الغالب في أصحاب هذا الداء أن يعيشوا عديمي النّسل وأن يموت أولادهم قبل الخروج من الرحم ويندر أن تبقى نساؤهم سليمات منه.

Syphilis and Marriage

Cairo: Hasan Efendi ‘Ali al-Masri.

I read in several issues of *al-Hilal* that syphilis might be hereditary and pass to one’s children and their offspring for four or five generations. I deduced from this that it would be better if those afflicted with it did not get married. I met a friend of mine who was afflicted with that disease in his youth, was treated and then cured. I learned from him that he is determined on getting married. I intimated that he should not do so, and told him what *al-Hilal* had said. His answer was none other than a note he pulled out of his pocket and handed to me, which was a doctor’s certificate bearing his name, stating that there was no harm in his getting married. I said nothing, but decided to write you and ask for your opinion in the matter.

Al-Hilal: Syphilis has three stages. Those who are treated immediately and are cured in the first stage might be saved from the danger resulting from their marriage. However, if it reaches the second or third stage and the familiar pustules are manifested on the skin; or if it reaches the bones and other parts of the body, then the disease is already firmly rooted in the patient’s body. The patient might be cured and no sign remain on his skin, but he will remain afflicted with it all his life, and his marriage is a grave danger. We therefore argue that a person whose disease has reached this stage – even if has been treated and was cured – we appeal to his sense of responsibility and to his conscience to refrain from marriage of his own accord. If not, he would be bringing the scourge upon his wife and children (if he indeed has any). Even if the disease does not appear in their infancy, it may appear in their childhood or youth. It might be latent in the children, and then appear in their children and their children’s children, as you have noted. Most of those

وأما صديقكم فالظاهر أن الدّاء لم يتجاوز فيه الدّرجة الأولى فشهد الطبيب بجواز زواجه. على أنّنا رأينا بعض الأطباء يجيزون الزواج لرجال أصيبوا بالدّرجة الثّانية أو الثالثة وشفوا، ولكنهم يشترطون في شهادتهم أن يتعاطى المتزوّج منهم علاج الزهري مدّة معيّنة كل سنة على طول الحياة. ولكنّنا نعدُّ ذلك تساهلًا لا يخلو من الخطر. والأولى أن يقتنع المصاب بمصيبته ولا يضاعفها بما يجرّه من البلاء على عذراء يأمره الشّرعُ بصيانتها ويفرض عليه الناموس أن يكون سبب سعادتها فكيف يعرّضها لهذا الخطر العظيم بل كيف يرضى أن يلد أولادًا لا يعيشون وإذا عاشوا قضوا حياتهم بالأسقام والعلل. وقد استشرنا غير واحد ممن نكبوا بهذا الدّاء هل يتزوجون وكانت نصيحتنا لهم أن لا يفعلوا فمنهم من سمع فنجا ومنهم من اغترّ بالآمال فندم يوم لم يعد بنفعه النّدم.

afflicted with this illness remain childless or have children who die shortly after leaving the womb. Their wives rarely remain healthy.

As for your friend, it is clear that his disease did not progress beyond the first stage, and the doctor therefore testified that he may get married. Although, we have seen doctors who permit the marriage of men who were inflicted by a second stage syphilis or even third, and were cured, but the doctor then allows them to do so under the condition that their spouse receive yearly anti-syphilitic treatment for her entire life. We consider this, however, to be careless and dangerous. It is better for those afflicted with the disease to accept their fate and not double their tragedy by inflicting it on a virgin that the law obliges them to protect, and whom dignity and honour make them responsible for her happiness. How can he put her in such a danger, and how can he agree to have children who will not survive, or will be subject to illness all their lives? More than one person afflicted with this malady has asked for our advice whether or not they should get married, and our advice had been not to do so. Some followed our advice and were saved, and others were dazzled by hope only to regret it, but regret will not help them.