

Active Measures to Prevent Venereal Diseases

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Annotation:

This document is a report made by Tetsuo Asō, a medical officer of the 11th Army (the Expeditionary Army in Shanghai) on June 26, 1939. In this report, Asō describe his experience of performing VD tests on women (eighty Koreans, and twenty Japanese) who were brought to a newly established “comfort station” called ‘Yang Jiazhai’(楊家宅) in January 1938.

The gist of the report is as follows: “Suspected VD cases are very rare among Korean women” because “most of them are new to this work” and “it appears that they were mobilized during the Sino-Japanese War and brought here without any training.” Asō added that “in general, the younger a prostitute is, the better her quality is” and proceeded to argue that “younger prostitutes should be sent to the battlefields.” He also described the special “comfort station” for the military as a “sanitary public toilet.”

Details:

1. Introduction
2. Prostitutes
3. Syphilis tests
4. Alcoholic beverage
5. Abstinence
6. Perception of venereal diseases
7. Preventions in a narrow sense
8. Treatment of patients
9. Conclusion

Sources:

WAM Collection (Military_007)

Sourcebook by Suzuki, Yamashita, and Tonomura, Vol. 1, pp. 159-168.

Tetsuo Asō, *From Shanghai to Shanghai* (Ishifura, 1993)

Compilation of battlefield reports by a medical officer, pp. 53-86.