

not go, the whole alimentary system at once gets out of order, the liver stops working, and the processes degenerate into the putrefactive changes which I have described.

One other characteristic I may mention in conclusion. In older infants where there has been disorder for some time, you may find the dejection of the infant absolutely white, looking like the curd of milk, without a trace of yellow, and without a trace of green. That is always a serious indication. It does not occur in young infants, but in infants about 9 months of age. It is characteristic of the cachetic condition, and it means that the liver has entirely ceased acting for the time being. The liver does not cease acting without some good reason. As a rule that is only the late expression of injurious processes that have been going on for a considerable period. It is well to caution you that when you see dejections of that character, the baby will be very seriously ill unless great care is taken.

[FINIS.]

A Recent Development in Preventive Medicine.*

By EDITH HOUGHTON HOOKER.

The question of the higher education of women has for a long time served as a fruitful topic for discussion, but one argument in its favour which time has brought forth will soon relegate it to the shelf of settled disputes. Time has shown that higher education results in increased community value, and that in the end must be the decisive point. The women who adhere to the antiquated dogma that woman's sphere is exclusively confined to the four walls of the home cannot be appealed to on behalf of community problems. They fail to appreciate the fact that the home is part and parcel of the community and that it must inevitably stand or fall with the community. The natural result is that the home is assailed and dismantled by numberless foes from the greater world without, while the old-school wife and mother sits by with folded hands and sees her household gods crumble together. There is a pathos in it, which is extreme, but there is also a blindness which in its obstinate determination not to see fills one with something very like anger. For years upon years marriage in countless instances has meant the martyrdom of the woman. The horrid and hidden scourge of modern civilisation, venereal disease, has numbered among its victims

countless scores of virtuous wives and mothers. By her invalidism, by her loss of generative power, by her dead or defective children, the woman has paid the score which her husband has left standing. And to-day she is still paying that score. But if you try to tell the woman of the old school what immorality really means in its relation to the home she recoils in horror and tells you that it is not her purpose to reform the world, she is busy enough in her own home. Alas! if higher education had not intervened what would the world be coming to? But higher education has intervened and there lies the hope of the future. The trained woman, the educated woman, can be appealed to, and above all the trained nurse will be sure to understand.

Within the past fifteen years medical men the world over have been coming to a realisation of the true significance of venereal disease. They have begun to appreciate the gravity of such diseases, particularly in their relation to the family, and they have also begun to see what devastating results the popular ignorance of these diseases has brought to pass. A sense of their own responsibility with regard to the education of the laity as to the far-reaching effects of venereal disease has been evolved, and this has led to the foundation of Societies of Social Hygiene in many countries. Such societies have been inaugurated in various American cities, and the trained nurse has already evidenced her sympathy with the movement. When one considers that approximately 75 per cent. of the mutilating gynaecological operations that are performed are the direct result of gonorrhoea, and that over 95 per cent. of these are in married women, some estimate of the importance of this disease from the point of view of women may be deduced. The fact that venereal disease is quite as common among the men of the upper classes as among working men but adds to the horror of the situation.

Until the past fifteen years the fact that venereal disease and immorality were indissolubly linked together was not recognised, and the only effort made by medical men to restrict the spread of this class of diseases was expressed in the measures called Regulation. Regulation applies only to women, and makes the examination of all women suspected of being immoral legally compulsory. Any woman found diseased may be imprisoned in one of the Lock Hospitals until her recovery. Leaving, as Regulation does, one factor, and that the more important one, in the spread of the disease wholly out of account, naturally

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