

VENEREAL DISEASE.

After long years of the "conspiracy of silence" on the subject of that most terrible of racial poisons—venereal disease—the daily papers, leaflets, books, and cinemas vie with one another in presenting the subject to us, and are in agreement as to the importance of such knowledge.

Two societies in this country are chiefly responsible for propaganda—the older one, the National Council for Combating Venereal Diseases, and the Society for the Prevention of Venereal Disease. We prefer the latter name, inasmuch as "prevention is better than cure," immeasurably better when dealing with diseases so horrible, and of such far-reaching consequence to the innocent as the venereal class.

Much of the work of the two societies is on the same lines. The N.C.C.V.D. holds that "no person who has indulged in promiscuous intercourse can be sure that he is not infected, and every such person is therefore bound in duty to him- (or her-) self, and to society, to seek means of cleansing at the earliest moment." At the same time the Council recently and unanimously affirmed that they are "as firmly opposed as ever to any general distribution of prophylactic packets to the members of the civil community."

The S.P.V.D., which has received the support of such distinguished humanitarians as the late Sir William Osler and Dr. Saleeby, stands for "the adoption of preventive measures in the only way which offers any real hope of efficiently combating this terrible scourge. Immediate self-disinfection, requiring no special skill or training, applied at the earliest possible moment, is the method advocated by this Society, and for this purpose the necessary disinfectants must be immediately available." The logic seems irresistible.

It is acknowledged by all who have studied the subject that the first hour after infection is the most important, if it is to be effectively checked, and that every hour which passes lessens the chance of its arrest. In view of the disastrous consequences, not only to the individual, but to the race, it seems imperative to urge the necessity for immediate self-disinfection.

Nurses who constantly come into contact with the consequences of the ravages of venereal disease as demonstrated directly and indirectly in the sufferings of men, women, and

little children, cannot fail to be profoundly moved by them, and should lose no opportunity of studying underlying causes, and the methods which can be applied to their prevention and cure.

THE ROYAL BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

Her Royal Highness, Princess Christian, the President, received a deputation of members of the Executive Committee, and representatives of the affiliated societies, on New Year's Day, at 78, Pall Mall, who conveyed to Her Royal Highness the appreciation of the members for her kind and gracious message of congratulation to all members of the Nursing Profession on the passing of the Nursing Acts.

Mr. Herbert J. Paterson, F.R.C.S., Hon. Medical Secretary, introduced the deputation, which consisted of Mrs. Campbell Thomson, Nurse Hon. Secretary, Miss Bickerton, Miss Cecilia Liddiatt, Miss Alice Cattell and Miss Isabel Macdonald, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Society for State Registration of Trained Nurses, Miss M. Heather-Bigg, Matrons' Council, Lieut.-Colonel Goodall, M.D., Miss Bryson, Fever Nurses' Association, and Miss Annie Hulme, National Union of Trained Nurses.

Princess Christian received the deputation in the beautiful gold and white drawing-room, and spoke feelingly of the arduous work for State Registration which had continued for so many years, and wished all success to the Nursing Profession now that it was to be entrusted with power and responsibility by Act of Parliament.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick presented Her Royal Highness with a bowl of crimson carnations and other flowers in the national colours from the Affiliated Societies, and, with Miss Heather-Bigg, expressed the thanks of the members for the congratulations of Her Royal Highness upon Nursing having attained the status of a Profession.

A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

The deputation then withdrew, and before parting wished one another a very happy New Year.

Her Royal Highness, the Princess Arthur of Connaught, Vice-President, has forwarded through the office of the Royal British Nurses' Association a gracious message conveying to all nurses her good wishes for the coming year.

Princess Arthur is deeply interested in nursing, and avails herself of every opportunity of studying its theory and practice.

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