

only the medical side, but the social horrors due to these diseases and the dangers to the family and future generations were portrayed. The lines of purpose and teaching followed are about these:—

That many young men, ignorant of the dangers of disease, lead lives which they would not lead, did they have the knowledge imparted to them in the proper manner at an early age.

That many girls are lost through ignorance, and that only full knowledge thoroughly impressed, can be relied on to save future generations of young girls.

That adult men are usually quite ignorant of the fact that the germs of gonorrhoea remain latent for years, apparently cured, but capable of infecting a wife. That if the sexual functions and disorders were taught in a perfectly simple, direct, and authoritative way, the great general public would in time become aroused to prevention, just as it has been aroused to prevent tuberculosis, and that without education the prospects are hopeless and appalling.

I cannot say that nurses are taking any part as yet in this crusade. I am not sure that they can do much except write, occasionally, and on every possible occasion teach.

Of course neither nurse nor physician can choose that horrible time when the sad consequences are evident, that one of your correspondents spoke of, to teach. The harm is done, and words are useless. But every nurse has at least one friend or relative among young men, who looks up to her as a superior being, and personally, I think one great privilege of our calling is the prerogative we have, which every one readily grants us, of plain and unabashed speech on natural subjects. For myself, whenever the opportunity offers for plain words on such subjects, I take it. And I think by our all sowing seeds of knowledge where we can, the cause of nature morality may be helped.

I think another thing to do, is for training school heads to see that all their nurses are carefully taught.

I find many nurses are quite ignorant, and I have known of two cases of infection, one peculiarly flagrant, where a nurse, ignorant of the true nature of a private case (and where the physician culpably, as I think, for we are not supposed to diagnose, did not warn her), contracted a virulent and persistent syphilitic poison.

It is certainly most important that every nurse should have thorough teaching on venereal disease, even if for no other reason than that she can herself teach, and on occasion preach. The thing that all women can and should do, is first to believe in, and second to uphold in their words and deeds the single standard of morality, alike for men and women. It is the tacit and most debased acceptance by women of the double standard that has delayed civilisation.

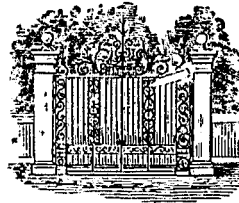
One of the radical changes in this new teaching is that masculine purity is compatible with health and strength, whereas of old many physicians have held that indulgence was necessary and unavoidable for young men. This latter view is now emphatically contradicted.

I am, as ever yours,

L. L. Dock.

## Outside the Gates.

### WOMEN



Tasmania has just elected its Parliament of thirty-five members. Women voted for the first time at a State general election, and they out-numbered the men at the polling stations, especially in the urban districts.

The new Constitution for the Transvaal grants manhood suffrage to all males who have reached the age of twenty-one, who have resided in the Transvaal for six months, excepting the military garrison.

Women are, we presume, classed with the animals, as chattels and beasts of burden, as they are excluded from citizenship. This means that the male offscourings of the world, who may happen to locate themselves for a few months in the Transvaal, are to be given power to govern white women. There should be but one answer to this insult. No woman who has an ounce of self-respect should enter the Colony, and thus provide or help to create more women for the use, in any capacity, of "gentlemen" of any shade "of colour" whatever.

The Baroness von Suttner, who has been in London to attend the Inter-Parliamentary Conference, is most hopeful of the cause of peace. She has remarked:—"What a lesson was the peaceful separation of Sweden and Norway. People had never supposed it to be possible to make such a change without bloodshed. And your Anglo-German friendship movement has been even a greater success than you can know. It embraced many beside avowed pacifists, and so much the better. That is the mark of our movement to-day. It is passing beyond the small coteries in which it began out into the world of practical politics and business, which means that it will grow more quickly and more firmly. We have done the earthworms' work; now the soil is prepared to bring forth the fruit and blossom the world so much needs."

The Susan B. Anthony Memorial Association propose to put up at the cost of 75,000 dollars a building at Rochester University, U.S.A., for the benefit of women students. Miss Anthony's deep and active interest in the opening of this college to women led to intimate relations between her and these students, and makes it peculiarly fitting that such a building should be her monument of service.

A Japanese war vessel stopped at Cork, and a number of sailors were given shore leave. On the same day a countrywoman was in Cork and for the first time saw a native of the Mikado's land. All Japs looked alike to her, and, after she had observed a street car half-filled with them, she exclaimed, "Glory be, but she was a wonderful woman that had all thim sons!"

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)