

tures, but work out their plans independently.

In general, though, it seems clear that the training school for nurses has a far more reserved mode of teaching venereal disease than other infectious diseases. This is evident when we compare the fulness of detail given as to measles, scarlet fever, erysipelas. How odd it would seem to find typhoid fever treated with such timidity! How different this is from the copious fulness now published everywhere, and almost shouted from the housetops, regarding tuberculosis—its cause, transmission, and, above all, its prevention! In the case of every other infectious disease the mode of propagation of the germ and prevention are held to be of the most absorbing interest. Lecturers delight in telling the story of Jenner; medical heroes sacrifice their lives to demonstrate the yellow-fever-bearing mosquito, and actual medical miracles were performed in the search for truth regarding the malaria carrier; medical pilgrimages are made around the world to study the cholera germ, and these rays of the sun of science are willingly let to shine upon our pupils in the training schools. But the pupils need also to be taught that venereal diseases have causes that are perfectly understood; that they are propagated by base use of the generative organs, and spread broadcast by our social institution of prostitution; also that, the cause and dangers being perfectly well known to medical science, so, too, is prevention perfectly well understood, and that this whole class of hideous menaces to health and happiness *could* be made to disappear from the face of the earth; above all, they need to be taught the unmitigated falsity and immorality of the double standard of morals in matters of sex.

Indeed, I quite think that many nurses do not even know enough to protect themselves against infection, for I recall two distressing cases where nurses caring for private patients were virulently infected—one losing an eye by gonorrhœal ophthalmia and the other's usefulness being destroyed by loathsome symptoms of syphilis. In these cases the physicians had not given the nurses the smallest hint as to the nature of the cases they were exposed to; yet nurses are not expected to diagnose, and these unfortunates evidently did not.

May some demur, and suggest that precaution against infection is all the nurse need be taught? I earnestly insist that she should be taught everything there is to know. Nurses are women, and it is most urgent that all women should know the whole truth in regard to venereal diseases at the earliest possible time and to the fullest possible extent. Only when all women and all men know the truth in

its fulness can we hope for a reduction of prostitution to its lowest possible terms, and only so can prevention be attained.

Prostitution is a subject so appalling and hideous that, if one concentrated all one's thoughts upon it, especially on that branch of it called the White Slave Traffic, one might easily become deranged; yet in the efforts at prevention of sexual diseases it cannot be put aside. Let us first consider the detail of the health of prostitutes themselves. I find in print the statement that in the United States it is estimated there are 600,000 of these unfortunates. Again, their average life is estimated at ten years, many of them dying after three to five years. Thus, to keep up the supply, about 60,000 fresh and, presumably, once at least pure and healthy young women, are annually drafted into this death-dealing business. Such a toll demanded by an infectious and avoidable malady is in itself heavy enough, but the true menace to the innocent women and children outside this number comes from the male prostitutes, who are too often left entirely out of consideration. It is said that it takes on an average five men to support one prostitute, and we have had horrible evidence in the social settlement where I live that some of these poor creatures are visited by many more. It is these men who carry venereal infection into their homes and distribute it among their wives and children.

The control and prevention of venereal disease, then, lies in the control and prevention of prostitution. Dr. Morrow, President of the American Society of Moral and Sanitary Prophylaxis, says:—"Efforts should be directed not to making prostitution safe, but to prevent the making of prostitutes."

How shall this be possible? My conviction, and that of many others far wiser than I, is that it can only become possible through the attainment by all women of great power and authority, such as they can only obtain through the possession of the franchise. Women must become possessed of the power to make laws and also to enforce them. It is not enough simply to be able to help administer those now made by a masculine law-making body. Women must attain the capacity to legislate for the making and remaking of social conditions—conditions of work and labour, wages and salaries, education, home, business, and public life. By far-reaching changes in these basic things only can the disease prostitution be undermined and minimised, just as it is chiefly by the preparation of the soil that the farmer controls his crops. Direct legislation against prostitution, by which I mean the various systems of policing and licensing, has

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