

social legislation. And in dealing with all other infectious diseases we find that education alone is not relied upon, but goes hand in hand with enlightened legislation. Take the case of scarlet fever: besides teaching all that is known about it, boards of health also demand laws from legislatures, enabling them to compel the milkman from selling his milk, if need be; of typhoid fever—not only is the public amply instructed, but laws of the land regulate the water supply and the disposal of sewage; of malaria in Italy—not only is the population taught the doctrine of the mosquito, but the Government acquires a monopoly of quinine, so that it may be sold at cost or distributed free; of tuberculosis—those who have been most active in the cause of popular education are the first ones to call for legislative interference with monopoly and speculation in land, selfish landlords, and unprincipled tenement house builders. The farmer who shuts the sun out of his house needs education; but the landowner who shuts it out of the city tenement needs both education and the compulsion of law as well. So in the prevention of venereal disease the two weapons are indispensable.

Now, as to the part that nurses can take in this movement. I am not one of those who believe in rigid limitations of the nurse's sphere of usefulness, or who insist that her professional submissiveness must never lose its classic form. I hold that her professional subordination, right and indispensable in the sick room or hospital, where she freely contracts to be under the absolute orders of those physicians who undertake and carry the responsibility of the patients' lives, must not be carried unquestioningly into her social and human relations, but may there be modified by her opportunities and duties as a human being. The older and narrow idea of the nurse reduces her to the plane of a kindly and animated machine. If logically carried out, this idea makes the nurse capable of palliative labours only, whereas the only hope of humanity is in preventive work. Preventive medicine is but in its early stages, and the nurse must not be shackled at the outset of her career with obsolete notions of self-effacement, but must be alert to follow and assist the advance guard of medical progress. But what can we really do in the moral prophylaxis cause?

1. Study and inform ourselves, so as to be capable of intelligent action when any opportunity shows itself.

2. Join the national or the international societies as working members. In this way we can obtain literature to distribute, and such

membership gives a standing and a backing. As an individual person one might feel shy or awkward in distributing literature, but as the member of a society it can be done impersonally.

3. Take every opportunity of giving simple talks and frank, plain instruction on sex physiology and hygiene, sex morality and the dangers of ignorance, in schools, social settlements, Young Women's Christian Associations; before groups of girls, mothers' clubs, and young teachers. Such talks cannot be too simple and direct. Take every occasion to explain that the highest medical authority to-day upholds the single standard of morality, and declares the old ideas of the physiological necessity of sex impurity for young men to be false.

4. Do all possible to promote fuller and broader instruction in training schools on the causes and prevention of venereal diseases, so that the oncoming generations of nurses may be better equipped than those of the past ages to enlighten, warn, and teach; also, let us hope, to legislate.

Naturally, in the case of a single patient, the nurse's lips, like the physician's, are sealed. Knowledge comes then too late, and truth would be a useless torment. But young mothers can be encouraged to teach their children. We must try to help bring on a more intelligent race of women, who will in turn produce a more manlike race of men.

International News.

We learn that Miss Eugénie Hibbard, and the Señoritas Margarita Nuñez and Mercedes Montegudo have arrived safely at Havana, after their attendance as Government delegates at the Congress in London, and a subsequent visit to Paris.

In forwarding a donation of £5 to Miss Breay for the International Council of Nurses, Miss Hibbard writes: "I think you, perhaps, do not fully appreciate all it meant to our Cuban nurses, the fact of taking a part, even a small one, in the Congress is helping them in their determination to do more for the profession of nursing. I am very grateful indeed to Miss Dock for helping to obtain permission for the nurses to attend the Congress in London, and to Mrs. Fenwick, and all connected with the Executive Committee for the very kind interest and courtesy extended to us."

Miss Hibbard has been appointed a member of the Cuban Committee for the Congress on Tuberculosis to be held in Spain next year. The two charming Señoritas send us "kindest remembrances."

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