

ment in mental and moral state, which a thoughtful nurse would look upon as a grave matter, suggestive of confirmed condition, which might be even aggravated by improved bodily state, and these are the cases that are often found the easiest to fatten, but fibre and tone are not correspondingly increased, and among these are frequently found unmarried women in easy circumstances past middle life, who have neither the ties, interests, nor motives of domestic life, nor yet the compulsion of necessity to thought, activity, and effort.

(To be concluded.)

Morality in Relation to Health.

NOTES FROM NEW YORK.

The American Society of Sanitary and Moral Prophylaxis held its first meeting for this winter at the Academy of Medicine a week or so ago, and I went up to it, as the programme was to deal with the progress made and results achieved so far by the movement to combat venereal disease. A large and interested audience was there, about half men and half women, many being physicians, others teachers, some nurses, while there were also the representatives of associations and voluntary bodies of teaching and of moral aims, officers of the National Vigilance League, etc., etc. The recital of the progress made all over the United States, as given by the President's (Dr. Morrow) opening address, was quite remarkable and astonishing. The intelligent and moral people of all sections of the country seem to be eager to learn and determined to assist in this crusade. State Societies exist in Pennsylvania and Maryland, and speakers from both those States were present to describe their own State work. City associations have been formed in a surprisingly large number of cities, through the West to the Pacific Coast and down as far as Mexico. Instructive literature is now sold in immense quantities, and the calls for pamphlets and speakers are more numerous than can be responded to. As yet the daily Press preserves an unbroken silence as to this propaganda, refusing even to print the words syphilis and gonorrhœa, while freely admitting quack advertisements and thinly-veiled personal advertisements of an immoral nature, but already some of the weekly publications of standing have begun presenting this great vital moral movement to their readers, and it is said that one of the foremost monthly magazines in the country is considering bringing out the subject in a forceful and educational way, combining the scientific basis with the easily comprehended social and human

aspect. This will be an immense help. The monthly magazines are now, to a greater degree than the daily papers, the educators of the great general public.

The report from Maryland was of special interest, as the State Society there has entered upon an original method of teaching by going straight to the women, wherever they are to be found, and especially to young working women, who are the usual victims of the White Slave trade. The Society sends lecturers to speak at the noon hour in factories and shops, and also makes a point of speaking to meetings of mothers.

I took the opportunity, in discussion, of telling what the nursing profession has done in passing resolutions, providing for national committees and for steady, continuous educational work, and what it intends doing in the way of bringing nurses' associations into touch with national prophylactic societies. After the meeting was over, several women physicians came to tell me how glad they were to hear that the nurses were taking up the subject, and I took the occasion to say that nurses were inquiring for information as to what was the best teaching for mothers on the dangers of masturbation, and where they could find such material. I hope that some of these women medicals will take the suggestion, and prepare an educational pamphlet on this line.

L. L. Dock.

The *American Journal of Nursing* says: "The session on Morality in Relation to Health of the International Congress of Nurses, reported in the *BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING* for August 28th, contains the most complete reports and soul-stirring information of social evils that we have seen of late, and would make the basis of a splendid series of meetings for our nursing organisations to follow."

State Registration in New South Wales.

It is unfortunate that owing to the limited time allotted to the consideration of private members' Bills in the New South Wales Parliament, the Nurses' Registration Bill was talked out, and now has to take its chance of being reached on some other private member's night. The second reading was moved by Mr. Daniel Levy on Oct. 5th, but the dinner adjournment was reached before a division could be come to, although, as we learn from the *Australasian Nurses' Journal*, Mr. Levy curtailed his remarks in the hope of a division being reached. He presented a petition from the Council of the Australasian Trained Nurses' Association, praying that the Bill be passed.

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