

Two International Conferences for the Prophylaxis of Syphilis and the Venereal Diseases have been held in Brussels, and among the national societies newly formed to carry on educational missions in regard to venereal disease, the American Society of Sanitary and Moral Prophylaxis, under the presidency of its founder, Dr. Prince A. Morrow, of New York City, stands easily in the lead by reason of its singleness of purpose—certain others still wrestling with the vexed question of regulation.

The brutalising effect of regulation on character was shown by the evidence laid before a Select Committee on the question in this country. Thus, an officer who ordered an establishment for his regiment in India in advance, knowing well that many would be little girls, excused this on the ground that "in India prostitution begins in the cradle." "A menacing disregard for the good of the civil community was suggested in the testimony of such men that 'diseased women, if incurable, were expelled from the cantonment.' But it was asked where did they go? For, unless they could die at once, they must go somewhere and be a danger to their environment.

"The decline of traditional chivalry under the effects of the supervision of vice is at hand in the suggestion of a German surgeon, who, angered by the failure of inscribed women to appear regularly for examination, would have had them whipped for absence, and in that of a French doctor who proposed imprisoning each woman for several days before examination, in order to prevent their tampering with symptoms."

The second chapter in this terrible history deals with the White Slave traffic, a traffic which is a disgrace to any country countenancing it for a moment.

Of this traffic District Attorney E. W. Sims, of Chicago, after investigating its organisation, wrote in much the same terms as did the English investigators into the Brussels conditions. When a white slave is sold and landed in a house or dive she becomes a prisoner, her clothes are placed under lock and key, and the finery provided for her is of such a nature as to make appearance on the street impossible. Moreover, she is placed at once in the debt of the keeper for a wardrobe, she cannot escape while she is in debt, and she can never get out of debt.

About ten years or less is the average expectation of life in women of this class. "Many die painful deaths by disease (venereal), many by consumption, but it is hardly beyond the truth to say that suicide is their general expectation."

Part III. deals with the Prevention of Venereal Disease.

(To be concluded.)

The League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses.

A General Meeting of the League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses was held in the Clinical Lecture Theatre at St. Bartholomew's Hospital on Saturday, June 25th. Miss Cox-Davies, the President, presided.

In her address from the chair, the President said that it was impossible to open the meeting without first referring to the loss the League had sustained of its Founder and Hon. President, Miss Isla Stewart. Many words were not necessary, because it filled the minds of all. At first overshadowed by their own personal sorrow, the members hardly realised all they had lost. They realised it overwhelmingly now and all that it meant. All their views as to what was best, highest, noblest, and finest in their profession they had learnt from her. Not so much what she said, but by the example which she set before them. What was left to Bart's nurses was the League which Miss Stewart had founded. That was theirs to keep for the future with all that their Founder had tried to put into it. She then proposed from the chair a resolution embodying the League's deep sense of its irreparable loss, which was passed in silence, standing.

The President then said that in their own deep trouble they must also remember that since the League last met the death of his late Majesty had occurred. She thought that the League would wish to send a resolution of sympathy and loyalty to the present King from the certificated nurses of the Royal Hospital of St. Bartholomew, which stood highest in the world. This was carried in silence and standing. Votes of condolence with American nurses in their bereavement by the death of Mrs. Hampton Robb, and with Miss Janet Stewart were also passed.

The Annual Report was then presented by the General Secretary and by the Treasurer, Miss Jenkins, which showed a balance in hand of £85 15s. 11d. and of £25 0s. 11d. in a reserve fund; by the Financial Secretary, presented by Mrs. Matthews for Miss Whitley. The League decided to retain in their own hands the further sum of £464 collected for the Nurses' Home beyond the £1,500 already given, and to invest it in Trust Funds.

The Benevolent Fund Account, presented by Mrs. Wates, also showed a balance in hand of £50 9s. 6d.

NATIONAL MEMORIAL TO MISS ISLA STEWART.

The next business before the meeting was to receive a statement from the Committee formed to promote a national memorial to Miss Isla Stewart, which was presented by Mrs. Walter Spencer, who said that the Committee

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)