

were due to syphilis, and that this form of deafness was hardly ever cured; better general health could be obtained for the children by treatment, but the restoration of hearing was rarely possible.

The cost of education in the case of a deaf child was at least five times as great as in the case of a normal child, so that even from the financial point of view alone the matter was a very serious one.

Dr. Love illustrated the effect of syphilis on child life by showing a number of family trees of families affected with syphilis; the record of twenty-one families showed that two-thirds of the children born were born dead, or, if alive, were blind or deaf or both.

He considered that improved treatment of syphilis was urgently demanded, and that this treatment should be placed within the reach of all. He thought that some form of notification of the disease was desirable, but that universal and compulsory notification was not at present feasible.

It might, however, be prudent to attack syphilis by a flank movement and to notify certain conditions which are often due to congenital syphilis, following up the information obtained by treatment of syphilis if the Wassermann reaction or any other test that might be applied indicated its presence.

At the thirteenth meeting Major Harrison, R.A.M.C., Pathologist to the Royal Army Medical Hospital, Rochester Row, gave evidence. He said that the chief cause of the late manifestations of syphilis was inadequate treatment, and that since the treatment of syphilis in the Army had been systematised, malignant syphilis had become almost unknown. Adequate treatment should be commenced at the earliest possible stage after the establishment of the diagnosis and should include prolonged observation clinically and by all laboratory tests until the doctor is satisfied.

Major Harrison described the methods of diagnosis in use in the Army, and stated that the diagnosis of syphilis, which in former years was often difficult, had now become as exact as that of almost any other disease. He referred also to the importance of gonorrhoea, and gave an account of the methods adopted at the Rochester Row Hospital in connection with this disease.

Major Harrison was of opinion that it was very important that both medical practitioners and the general public should be educated with regard to venereal diseases, and he laid stress on the desirability of obtaining legislation to prevent unqualified persons from treating these diseases. With regard to the question of notification, he advocated a system of confidential notification at the option of the local authority.

In view of the importance of providing facilities for diagnosis in order to secure early treatment, he thought that district and county laboratories should be established under the direction of a central national laboratory, and he submitted a scheme for such a national laboratory service.

## OUTSIDE THE GATES.

### WOMEN.

The King's Speech read at the Opening of Parliament on Tuesday, and addressed to "My Lords and Gentlemen," was of course disappointing to the women of the nation. Their enfranchisement was not mentioned in it, and deep and bitter indignation is felt by thousands in consequence. All the pomp and glitter, the booming of guns and national glory, only accentuated the contempt with which women are treated by a callous and reactionary Government, the majority of whom have no more right to the title of "Liberal" than the Ten of Venice.

The popularity of the Lyceum Club, 128, Piccadilly, London, as a centre of social and intellectual activity, is evinced by the large number of women who have recently joined the Club, who have made a name for themselves in a dozen distinctive spheres. It is not surprising, therefore, that the hon. membership of the Club has been accepted by the Countess Gleichen (a noted sculptor and cousin of the King); and by the wives of the German, Italian, American and Japanese Ambassadors.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick has been re-elected to the Chair of the Executive Committee—with Mrs. York Trotter, as Vice; and Mrs. Phillip, as Deputy vice-chair. The committee is representative of all the activities of the Club; and its members spend many hours monthly in furthering its interests, and doing all in their power to make it the social centre in London, where the aspirations and talents of women find encouragement and a sympathetic environment.

The Secretary for Scotland has appointed under the provisions of the Mental Deficiency and Lunacy (Scotland) Act (1913), Miss Kate Fraser, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H., at present medical officer to the Govan Parish School Board, to be a Deputy Commissioner of the General Board of Lunacy for Scotland, which after May 15th next will be designated the General Board of Control for Scotland.

Dr. Kate Fraser was educated in the University of Glasgow, and has had a most brilliant career; last year her alma mater conferred upon her the degree of M.D. with high commendation. Amongst Dr. Fraser's notable publications may be mentioned papers on "The Examination of Mentally Defective Children," and on "The Role of Syphilis in Mental Deficiency and Epilepsy."

The Public Health Committee of the London County Council have granted licences to the Duchess of Marlborough, and Mr. W. Bramwell Booth to keep and use as a common lodging house, the premises, the Mary Curzon Hostel for Women, No. 164-170, King's Cross Road, Finsbury, and No. 119-121, Green Street, Bethnal Green.

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