

certain safe-guards against abuse, the public assistance authority should have power to detain cases of venereal disease when medically certified to be dangerous to others, Sir Arthur Downes said that he could only support this proposal if the detention was not of a penal character, and was so arranged as to be as little deterrent as possible.

DR. HELEN WILSON.

At the fifteenth meeting of the Royal Commission on Venereal Diseases, held on the 2nd inst., evidence was given by Dr. Helen Wilson.

Dr. Wilson said that it was now generally recognised that it was quite futile to attempt for venereal diseases such isolation as was practised in regard to acute infectious diseases, the main reason being that in a large proportion of cases venereal diseases did not prevent the sufferer from following his ordinary avocation, that they were easily concealed, and that there were strong motives for concealment. The objects to be aimed at were, firstly, to bring every sufferer under efficient treatment at the earliest possible moment, thereby shortening the infective period; and secondly to secure his own intelligent co-operation both for his own cure and for the protection of his associates. She did not think that compulsory notification would ever be a material help in diminishing these diseases; but that any attempt to deal with these diseases otherwise than on voluntary lines would array a tremendous amount of opposition: if voluntary methods were given a fair and intelligent trial, she was convinced that the residuum of cases would be comparatively small, and that probably means could be found for dealing with them.

As regards the organisation of medical treatment, Dr. Wilson thought that the hard and fast line which has been drawn between these diseases and all others should be abolished. Admission to institutions and treatment of the diseases should not be governed by inquiries as to the method in which the disease was contracted; and the nursing and all other arrangements should be as good in the wards for the treatment of these diseases as in any others. Names like "Lock" and "Magdalene" for special wards or hospitals had a deterrent effect, and should be avoided. She laid stress on the importance of providing evening clinics for out-patients.

Dr. Wilson was of opinion that further instruction was needed for medical students and nurses, and that the education of the general public in matters of sex hygiene was of the highest importance. She doubted whether it would be wise to introduce systematic class instruction in elementary schools, and she was certainly of opinion that in these schools there should be no instruction dealing with diseases.

In the first instance parents and teachers needed preparation for the work of instructing children. She understood that in some few training colleges this matter was already receiving attention, and teachers were being trained, not with the object

of giving class lessons, but to enable them to speak to the older children privately when they saw occasion to do so.

In some schools in America the plan had been tried of inducing the mothers to come and hear about the subject in the first place, and afterwards of beginning a course of lessons to the girls, the mothers being invited to be present the whole time.

Dr. Wilson considered this arrangement of teaching the girls in the presence of the mothers to be an admirable one as helping to secure what was most wanted, that the girls should be in the position to speak frankly to their mothers in private about the subject.

At the sixteenth meeting Surgeon Scott, R.N., who was until recently in charge of the Naval Hospital at Chatham, gave evidence respecting the methods of treatment and results obtained in naval hospitals.

Dr. Coupland and Dr. Bond (Commissioners in Lunacy), and Sir Thomas Barlow, have also given evidence before the Commission.

The Senatus Academicus of the University of Edinburgh have awarded the Cameron Prize, which is given for "highly important and valuable additions to practical therapeutics," to Professor Paul Ehrlich, Director of the Royal Institution for Experimental Therapeutics, Frankfort, in recognition of his discovery of salvarsan, of his researches on numerous synthetic organic compounds of arsenic, and of his important work on immunity.

WELL MERITED DISTINCTIONS.

Only a few months ago the jury of the International Medical Congress awarded the only Grand Prix in the tonic and nutrient section to Messrs. Wulffing & Co., for Sanatogen. Now His Majesty the King of Spain has given the firm his Royal Warrant not only for Sanatogen but for their other preparations also, including Formamint, Cystopurin, and Albulactin. Albulactin has an established place in the Royal Nursery and is always added to the milk of the babies of the King and Queen.

AN AMAZING CRIMINAL.

"Sister Mary Leslie, M.A.," alias Mary Green or Esgate, alias Gloria Leslie, is now again at large, having been a few weeks ago liberated after serving a sentence of eighteen months for bigamy at Edinburgh. This woman, a domestic servant without hospital training, has, we learn, even since regaining her liberty, again adopted nurses' uniform and victimised the public. This is one of the numerous bogus nurses of whose amazing career the Home Secretary knows nothing. Just a few reminiscences for his enlightenment. Born in the

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)