

clusion that in that country rather less than 2½ per cent. of syphilitics died of general paralysis.

In the United Kingdom there are about 2,600 deaths annually from general paralysis and about 700 deaths from locomotor ataxy. If it may be assumed that 3 per cent. of cases of syphilis result in deaths from these diseases, the conclusion is reached that there are about 111,000 syphilitic infections annually. This figure Dr. White compared with the 114,000 fresh infections estimated by the indirect method already mentioned.

Dr. White said that he had not had an opportunity of studying some figures recently published in Vienna which were referred to by the members of the Commission.

These figures suggest that 7½ per cent. of cases of syphilis result in locomotor ataxy or general paralysis, and if that percentage were adopted the estimate of fresh cases would be reduced to about 500,000 annually.

Passing to the means of combating venereal diseases, Dr. White said that prevention would depend on two elements, facilities for treatment and education of the public. If there were no facilities education would largely fail of its purpose, and if there were no education the facilities would not be fully utilised. He regarded ignorance of the public as the moot factor in the spread of venereal disease, and from reading various official reports from foreign countries he had formed the impression that syphilis and ignorance walk hand in hand.

The matter was one of much difficulty, but he thought that it was clear that adolescents of both sexes should be instructed in sex hygiene, and such teaching might be begun in the case of boys at about the age of 16, and in the case of girls at 15. He suggested that at public schools a course of lectures should be given by a selected medical man, and at universities similar lectures, but with more special reference to disease and the need for early treatment in case of its acquisition, should be made compulsory. He recommended a similar procedure for adoption at secondary technical schools and evening schools. In addition he advocated that the Government should employ a certain number of medical men and possibly some specially instructed laymen to give lectures on this subject to the employees at large factories; lady lecturers should be employed in the case of girls.

He would suggest that the whole procedure ought to be made under the control of some central body resembling the societies which exist in Germany and the United States.

#### NATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PHYSICAL EDUCATION.

A Special Meeting of the Infant Welfare Department of the above National League will be held on Friday, April 3rd, at the Passmore Edwards Settlement, 36, Tavistock Place, W.C., at 5 p.m., to consider the question of Treatment Centres for Children under School Age.

## OUTSIDE THE GATES.

### WOMEN.

It has been quite a hopeful week for women. First the deputation which waited upon the Lord Chancellor, from the Committee for the Admission of Women to the Solicitors' Profession, were assured by Lord Haldane that he was personally in favour of the principle, as also were the Prime Minister and the Law Officers of the Crown, whom he had consulted about the Bill to authorise the proposal.

Then the Liberal Party of Manitoba has pledged itself to grant the Parliamentary vote to Women.

Also the *Times* has been full of questions which might inspire a woman to imagine that she was a "person," in spite of grandiose legal pronouncements to the contrary. Incidentally it might also be mistaken for a fashion sheet, so many grotesque advertisements of women's clothes flank the reading matter.

Mrs. Fawcett was permitted to announce in its exclusive columns the cabled news that the Constitutional amendment to extend full suffrage to women had been adopted by the House of Representatives in Massachusetts by 164 to 39, and that Senate had already, about two weeks earlier, passed the same amendment by the immense majority of 34 to 2.

Moreover, the Attorney-General, Sir John Simon, was on Saturday last the guest of the Liberal Men's Association for Women's Suffrage at Manchester, and said his convinced belief was "that woman suffrage would be found to be an essential product of Liberal argument and Liberal truth." The sooner the Liberal Government puts these admirable principles into practice the better!

Then the *Times* correspondent from Cairo writes: "It is fairly generally admitted that the future of the Moslem races and the elevation of their moral and physical standards, depends in a great measure on the better education of the Moslem woman and on her emancipation from the very secondary—one might with all truthfulness say, degraded—social position that she occupies even to-day. There are signs that this fact is gradually receiving recognition in Egypt. With a view to filling this want there has been founded in Cairo, under the auspices of the Khedivah-Mother and of the wives of the Ministers and of the chief European and native notables, a society called the Women's Educational Union, the objects of which, as set forth, are admirably adapted to further female status in Egypt."

If the *Times* rushes along at this breathless pace on the women question, sooner or later it will presumably cease to boycott the Nursing question. Who knows? Fancy opening one's *Times* one morning and reading the truth about State Registration of Nurses. That would be refreshing.

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