

been one of its founders. Many of the foreign representatives expressed their appreciation of his valued help, and testified to how much they owed to his interest and support.

The Presidency of the Federation rendered vacant by the lamented death of Mr. Stuart, was filled by the unanimous election of M. Yves Guyot, Paris, the distinguished French economist.

The discussion on the Progressive Reduction of Public Immorality was divided into two sections—the Responsibility of Law Makers, and the Responsibility of Local Authorities. Remarkable papers were read on the former by Mr. J. Bronson Reynolds, New York, and on the second by Councillor Dawson, of Hull. Speaking with a wide experience, each agreed on many of the special features, in condemnation of the segregated vice districts, which never succeeds in segregating vice, but propagates it, and while attracting to their area a criminal and dissolute population, which, being huddled together become dangerous, whereas, being scattered, they are comparatively innocuous.

On the utility of the employment of women police, they were equally agreed, as was also Frau Scheven, speaking later from her German experience. Women police, it was explained, could not be substituted for policemen, but properly trained, they could support the work of the police and could do work of a character which men cannot do.

The third day's discussion was on the Responsibility of the State towards the Reduction of Venereal diseases. This was a "Doctors' Day," and some very valuable and remarkable papers were given. Dr. Mearns Fraser, Medical Officer for Portsmouth, presided, and the chief speakers were: Dr. Santoliquido, of Rome, Councillor of State, Chairman of the International Bureau of Public Hygiene (Paris); Dr. Svend Lomholt, a physician and statistician of Copenhagen; Dr. Rist, Paris; Dr. E. F. Skinner, Sheffield; Dr. Douglas White, Harrow; and Dr. Helen Wilson, Sheffield.

Dr. Skinner dealt with diseases in the British Army. He showed how disease had been reduced during recent years, partly by improved methods of diagnosis and treatment, and partly because of the improved moral tone of the soldier, owing to the betterment of his social conditions, the provision of rational amusement and recreation, and the example of sobriety set by his officers. From this Army experience many valuable lessons could be learnt for use in the civilian population. Disease was sufficiently prevalent to demand immediate measures, which should include a personal purity crusade, and efficient early treatment.

This latter was of the greatest importance, and should be sought as in the Army, by persuading sufferers to seek early treatment. At the Sheffield Hospital an out-patients' department has been opened in the evening, so that workmen can thereby secure treatment without sacrifice of time and wages.

At the Sheffield University a successful course of lectures on these diseases and their treatment had just been completed for qualified medical men. More education for the general public was suggested—particularly among certain classes, such as school teachers and health visitors.

Dr. Skinner concluded: "Syphilis is a disease, not a Divine retribution for sin, and is to be treated not by scourgings but by every means that modern medical and surgical skill can place at our disposal."

As with the lawyers, so the doctors were practically unanimous. They strongly urged early and adequate treatment of all sufferers. The first necessity was to take care of the sick, and at as early a stage as possible. The aims of public health were described as first, a correct diagnosis, and second, the isolation and extinction of every focus of infection. Modern discoveries have put these aims practically within the reach of every practitioner and every patient.

The result of an enquiry among the thirty-two nations represented at the International Bureau of Public Hygiene, demonstrated beyond the possibility of doubt that early treatment (without notification) is much better adapted to check the spread of disease than any compulsory measures.

Dr. Helen Wilson, winding up the discussion, said that in the long run there was no real divergence between the teaching of true hygiene and true morality, and if their ideas appeared to conflict, there was something wrong with one or the other, or perhaps with both. The idea that hygiene was promoted by the Regulation of Prostitution, was now as obsolete as the belief that it was somehow in the interests of morality to allow venereal diseases to flourish unchecked. It must be remembered that hygiene was made for man, not man for hygiene.

Delegates to the Conference attended from many parts of the world.

REFLECTIONS

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.

During the visit of the King and Queen to Nottinghamshire, from June 24th to 26th, His Majesty will, by means of an electric button, open the King Edward Memorial Wing of the Mansfield Hospital and lay the foundation stone of the Municipal Tuberculosis Sanatorium and Hospital at Hull.

The Guy's Hospital Garden Party will be held in the grounds on July 9th. The medals and prizes will be distributed to the students by the Right Hon. Sir George Reid, P.C. G.C.M.G., K.C. The College, Henriette Raphael Nurses' Home and Wards will be on view from 3 to 5.30 p.m., and, as usual, there will be music in the grounds and refreshments. There is usually a great gathering of the hospital's friends and supporters, and the doctors and nurses.

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