

munity; it was proper that the expense should be met by local authorities or by the State.

Mr. Pugin Meldon, Senior Surgeon at the Westmorland Lock Hospital, Dublin, gave evidence before the Commission as the representative of a Joint Committee appointed by the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland, the Apothecaries Hall, Ireland, the School of Medicine at Trinity College, Dublin, and the National University of Ireland. The Committee laid stress on the point that the difficulty in dealing with venereal diseases arose from the social stigma attaching to those suffering from it. This stigma was certainly a hindrance to early diagnosis and treatment, and this being so, it was not desirable to establish for the treatment of the general class of venereal disease patients special dispensaries and hospitals, or special laboratories for diagnosis. As regards diagnosis, it was essential that clinical methods should be supplemented by the aid of the pathological laboratory, and arrangements should be made for the free diagnosis of venereal disease at the laboratories in the Pathological Departments of the Universities and Medical Schools.

With regard to treatment, the Committee were of opinion that one cause which operated very extensively in deterring people from obtaining proper treatment was the penalisation of venereal disease. Employers of all kinds were in the habit of either dismissing from their employment persons who were found to be suffering from these diseases or refusing them leave for the purpose of treatment. The result was that these persons either endeavoured to treat themselves or resorted to advertising quacks, and only sought a physician when the disease was so far advanced that they were unable to do their work. So long as this penalisation persisted it was impossible seriously to suggest any scheme of notification, and therefore any really effective method of prevention.

Similar considerations led the Committee to suggest that the Insurance Act should be amended so as to make it impossible to withhold sick pay and disablement pay in cases of venereal disease.

The Committee referred to the fact that some general hospitals have rules precluding the admission of venereal patients, and they suggested that pressure should be put upon such hospitals to have these rules rescinded.

The Children's Sanatorium, at Holt, Norfolk, which owes its inception to Miss Marian Rumball, for so many years Sister of Barton Ward at the London Homœopathic Hospital, has been approved as a special school for tuberculous children. Of the £22,000 raised since the institution was founded, over £11,000 is represented by the site, building, and equipment, and about the same amount has been spent in the eight years of its existence for maintenance of cases. About £1,500 is required to complete necessary adjuncts—receiving shelters and an isolation shelter—and to close the building accounts.

OUTSIDE THE GATES.

WOMEN.

The King, on the advice of the Home Secretary, has remitted the remainder of the sentences on all persons now undergoing terms of imprisonment for offences connected with the Suffrage agitation. In making the announcement to Parliament Mr. McKenna said that the course had been taken without solicitation on their part, and without requiring any undertaking from them.

Mrs. Henry Fawcett has made a stirring appeal to the members of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies to "Bind themselves together for the purpose of rendering the greatest possible aid to the country at this momentous epoch." The 500 Societies of the Union have been asked to make suggestions without delay as to the best method for relieving the suffering entailed by the war. The Executive which considered the plans laid before them, being of opinion that for the time being the ordinary political work of the Union must be suspended, decided that the National Union, as an organisation, should give its services, through its affiliated societies, for the relief of distress caused by economic and industrial dislocation. The Societies of the Union have therefore been requested to send at once a letter to the Lord Mayors or Mayors, or Chairmen of Councils placing their services at their disposal.

The offices at Headquarters are already being organised as a Labour Exchange Bureau for voluntary work, for receiving, classifying, and distributing offers of help. These offers are very numerous, and it is suggested that some of the larger societies of the Union shall use their offices for a similar purpose. Many of the Societies have already started work, in various directions, and amongst the plans which have been proposed are the suggestions that lists of voluntary workers shall be prepared to take the place of men in harvesting, farm work, &c., that schemes should be undertaken for boarding out young children under five in the houses of the well-to-do, that special service should be given in connection with the distribution of Government stores and money to Reservists' families, Red Cross and medical work, clerical work in offices set up for emergency purposes, &c.

All members of the National Union who volunteer their services are to wear their badges and, if possible, the uniform of the Active Service League. This was initiated by the sister of Sir John French, Mrs. Harley, who is at this moment particularly active in organising relief.

Two pamphlets issued by the British Committee of the International Federation for the Abolition of State Regulation of Prostitution, 19, Tothill Street, Westminster, S.W., price 1d. each, are of much interest to those who realise the importance of this question. The first, "Law and Administration in regard to the Social Evil: an outline of existing conditions and projected

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