

## PROFESSIONAL REVIEW.

### "HYGIENE AND MORALITY."\*

Now that the whole subject of venereal diseases is before the public, and the definite instruction of nurses as to these, as to other infectious diseases, is being seriously considered, the question of a text-book on which such instruction can be based is a matter of importance.

The only one, so far as we are aware, ready to meet the need is "Hygiene and Morality," by Miss Lavinia L. Dock, written with the author's usual clarity of vision and expression. The scope of the book is indicated by its sub-title: "A Manual for Nurses and Others, giving an Outline of the Medical, Social, and Legal Aspects of the Venereal Diseases."

The subject is discussed under three main headings: "The Venereal Diseases, Prostitution, and the Prevention of Venereal Disease." In regard to the Control and Regulation of Prostitution, Miss Dock shows that there is a long and revolting history of spasmodic attempts made from time to time to control or punish prostitution—attempts which usually took the form of grotesque and brutal punishments for women, rarely for men. She shows, too, the utter absence of logical sequence in a double code or standard of morals, of speaking of "physical necessity" for men, and of women who gratify that necessity as "fallen"; because, "if unregulated sexual practice were really necessary for men, there could be no element of shame or wrong in it, and therefore none for the women, for no act that is physically necessary is wrong, no matter how primal it may be."

In regard to Modern Systems of "Regulation," with medical inspection of female prostitutes, with the object of making vice safe, this device originated, it is said, with Napoleon Bonaparte, who thought it proper that women should be sacrificed to his soldiers, but did not wish the soldiers to be invalidated.

One of the irrefutable arguments advanced by Mrs. Josephine Butler, the leader of the crusade in this country against the Contagious Diseases Acts, was that "to examine, treat, and isolate women only, while allowing infected men to go free, was a farce."

The consideration of prostitution in connection with the venereal diseases is important, because it is "the knot around which contamination centres." It must also be remembered that "prostitution is a disease of poverty." For the real protection of girls, "not only legislation, but vigilant administration and unswerving enforcement of law must be had. Women are urgently, desperately, needed as police wherever young children and growing creatures are out in the world, and the time may not be far off when such police, with the training of the nurse or the

teacher, shall be more numerous than those we are now familiar with."

In conclusion, Miss Dock proclaims that a new ideal needs to be formed, an ideal of the worth and dignity of human life, and of a commanding place and power that must be assumed by women in all that pertains to the cherishing and ennobling of the race.

### THE GREAT WAR OF FREEDOM.

Friday, April 20th, is to be "American Day," on which date there will be held a Service of Consecration at St. Paul's Cathedral, when the King and Queen, the Lord Mayor and the American Ambassador, representing the President, will attend. The Lord Mayor hopes there will be a liberal display of Stars and Stripes to give visible form to our joy and satisfaction at welcoming our new comrades-in-arms in this world-conflict for the rights of humanity. We learn that "the supreme object of the United States in entering the war is to restore peace to the world, that its most important national purpose is to compel respect for the rights of the people of the United States on the part of every nation, and finally to aid in the destruction of the military government of Germany through the elimination of the Hohenzollerns, and by a compulsory agreement on the part of their successors to limit German armament to purely territorial purposes."

### GERMAN DEAD AS PIGS' FOOD AND MANURE.

Herr Karl Rosner, the correspondent of the Berlin *Lokalanzeiger*, writes: "We pass through Evergnicourt. There is a dull smell in the air, as if lime were being burnt. We are passing the great Corpse Exploitation Establishment (*Kadaver-Verwertungsanstalt*) of this Army Group. The fat that is won here is turned into lubricating oils, and everything else is ground down in the bones mill into a powder which is used for mixing with pigs' food and as manure."

Our press has now exposed the revolting horror of the whole system by which a German Offal Utilisation Company are permitted to profit by this ghoulish trade. Science at war with humanity as governed by a barbarian spirit! If German mothers are not devoid of the maternal instinct we may in this connection sympathise with their outraged emotion.

As for the House of Hohenzollern, responsible for hell let loose, down, down with it into the nethermost inferno, and we British mothers must help to send it there.

Alas! had there been freedom for mother spirit in this our world, the flesh and blood of no mother's son, either dead or alive, would have been tortured, desecrated or defiled by a demoniacal race of men.

It is announced from Petrograd that every woman at the age of twenty will have a vote and that all Government posts, including Ministerial appointments, will be open to women.

\* Messrs. G. P. Putnam's Sons, 24, Bedford Street, Strand, London, W.C. 6s. net.

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