

The labour hall is next visited. The hall is airy, well lighted, and warm, some 40 or 50 women work together here and are allowed to talk to one another; they appeared quite resigned to their present lot, and seemed pleased to show their work. Instead of wardresses, prison officers teach and supervise here. In this particular department they are taught to upholster, make loose covers, knit stockings, make bags for the Post Office Air Service, and some items of Army kit.

The prisoners do the cleaning of the prison officers' quarters, and the dress they wear has a coloured tie which varies in colour and stripes according to the type of prisoner they are.

In the main building from the Central Hall, a spiral staircase leads to the halls off which are cells. These cells are airy, well lighted and spotlessly clean, furnished with bedstead, supplied with blankets and bed linen, and the necessary toilet requirements; personal postcards are permitted. Mounting higher via the spiral staircase the chapel is reached at the top of the building. It is large and to all appearances is as any other chapel, save for the arrangement of the screening off of certain classes of prisoners who are kept apart, and here, as in the prison, generally, the walls are bright coloured, reflecting light. Divine Service is well attended, young prisoners sit in the gallery and form the choir, and we are told the singing is extremely good.

Baptisms take place in the chapel of children born in prison, and relevant to one item of reform, that no shadow is cast on the child's future, the christening is registered at the nearest church in the vicinity. The same principle applies to the child's Birth Certificate, which is so framed that no indication is given of the place of birth.

On passing into the open, the turf of the exercise ground, intersected with paths is sunny and gives a refreshing touch of green. Here it was explained that a little group of prisoners, seen in the distance, were young prisoners whose ages ranged from 17 to 23, leaving school, where they are taught school lessons, housework and gardening.

Arrangements for the prisoners' discharge are explained. In the Discharge Block her own clothing, which has been washed or cleaned awaits her, and any deficiencies in her outfit are made good, and new shoes, if required, are supplied. No prisoner on completion of her sentence is cast adrift with nowhere to go. Everyone in need is given work or helped financially through the Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society, who employ two agents and two employment agents to carry out this important work.

Finally, the Nursing Matron-in-Chief conducted the members of the Class to the Committee Room where they were most courteously received by the Governor and Deputy Governor. Here by the Governor's request the Deputy Governor gave very valuable information concerning the very important part educational classes play in prison life. Every evening from 6-8 p.m. school classes are conducted by University Women for young prisoners. In connection with this work she alluded especially to the recidivists, *i.e.* prisoners who return again and again to crime and hence to prison; these cases almost invariably were due to drink. There are general classes dealing with handicraft, citizenship, leather work, hand weaving, metal work, pottery, history, gardening, dressmaking, basket work, English literature, conducted by voluntary workers. Finally the Deputy Governor showed quantities of beautiful needlework, garments of every description, embroidery, hand woven towels and beautifully worked cloths, also metal and leather work. As these were for sale the members were delighted to take the opportunity of selecting useful purchases. Notification of the date of the sale which takes place of the work done during the year, was promised. Books are also supplied from the Prison Library. A

scheme is being arranged by which prisoners will be paid wages, ranging from 2d. to 1s. a week.

A striking feature in Penal Reform is the Prison Nursing Service inaugurated in 1928, and we feel that the present Nursing Matron-in-Chief (who has seen its inception) with the Nursing Sisters, are to be congratulated on their inspiring work. From Holloway nurses are drafted by the Prison Commissioners to other prisons and Borstal Institutions, but remain under the supervision of the Nursing Matron-in-Chief.

The members could not express too warmly their appreciation of the kindness and courtesy extended to them by the Governor, Deputy Governor, and the Nursing Matron-in-Chief, who inspired of the highest ideals administered on the lines of reward rather than punishment as a practical means of reformation.

The lightness and brightness of Holloway Prison clearly diffuses an atmosphere of the most humane treatment.

ALICE STEWART BRYSON.

## THE PUBLIC HEALTH.

### VENEREAL DISEASES.

Mr. L. S. Amery, President of the British Social Hygiene Council, alluding to the fight against tuberculosis in connection with the Government's health education campaign, reminds the readers of *The Times* that there is another subject selected by the Ministry of Health for special emphasis in this month's campaign—namely, that of the venereal diseases. That is a subject, no less vital to national health, which has long suffered, and to some extent still suffers, from a not unnatural but yet most unfortunate conspiracy of silence. In the interests of national health and, above all, in that of the rising generation, it is essential that this conspiracy of silence should be broken down and the problem faced frankly and courageously by all who are taking part in this national campaign.

The Prime Minister, in the broadcast speech with which he inaugurated the campaign, gave a clear lead on this subject, and every credit is due to the Ministry of Health for its frank and helpful recognition of the necessity for public enlightenment with regard to it. But the success of their efforts can only be assured if there is widespread public support for their policy, which envisages not only the effective and easily accessible treatment that can prevent the gravest consequences of these diseases but also the continuous education of parents, teachers, youth leaders, and adolescents themselves about the dangers involved and the sane and healthy outlook and way of life that will help to avoid them.

### THE CARE OF CRIPPLES.

The Annual Meeting of the Central Council for the Care of Cripples was recently held at 11, Downing Street, by invitation of Mrs. Chamberlain.

Sir Kingsley Wood said that cripples had been so called because they went creeping. Yet it is one of the most encouraging results of modern surgical technique that nowadays if treatment was secured at the earliest stage, there were few who need go creeping any longer. Most of the congenital deformities which caused crippling could be put right if they were detected in the first year, or, better still, the first months of life. One of the most important parts of all infant welfare work was the singling out of young children in need of such treatment.

The chief crippling diseases to-day were tuberculosis, infantile paralysis, and rickets. These diseases could be attacked and often defeated by skilled treatment in open-air hospitals, and, indirectly, in the work of many of our modern health services, which struck at the roots of the disease.

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