

harmony with God's law, which is without shadow of turning, is to find the peace which cannot be assailed. Such is an outline of the lessons taught by the book, which by its practical suggestions is entitled to our reverent study.

Four Reasons why the Contagious Diseases Acts should be repealed.

1. Because they are a glaring violation of constitutional law.

Herbert Spencer says that they "treat with contempt the essential principles of constitutional rule."

Lord Halsbury, the late Lord Chancellor, writing of one of the powers conferred by these Acts, says, "It is contrary to the whole spirit and principle of our law."

The C.D. Acts allow a woman to be urged to criminate herself.

They sanction her being intimidated to write herself down as guilty before she has had any kind of trial whatever.

They hold her to be guilty until she can prove herself to be innocent.

They condemn and punish on the mere suspicion of the police, and no positive proof is required.

They grant no open trial.

The accused is tried in a secret court.

2. Because they are an insult to the womanhood of the Colony.

Under these Acts a pure and modest woman may be subjected to the most disgusting personal outrage.

Before these Acts were repealed in England, many cruel indignities were inflicted on innocent girls, respectable married women, and even on ladies of good position.

Any woman is completely at the mercy of a policeman, who may be either stupid or vicious. It is all but impossible for persons falsely accused and cruelly outraged to get redress.

The policeman may plead in excuse of the greatest outrage that a woman can suffer his *intention* to obey the Act.

If the verdict is not decided against the policeman he shall obtain from the woman full costs; but if the verdict is for the outraged woman she shall not have costs (unless the judge shall certify that he approves it).

Professor Newman says, "Did ever any stupid, ignorant, reckless barbarians make such a law."

3. Because they are useless in checking the spread of disease.

M. Lecour, Commissaire Interrogateur, and Chef de Bureau à la Prefecture de Police, whose duty it is to superintend the administration of these Acts in Paris, says, "The evil is a moral and social one, and cannot be controlled by the police, who can neither restrain nor destroy it."

Leon Lefort, of the Paris faculty and physician to the du Midi hospital for men, says, "The means employed against syphilis in Paris amount to nothing."

Dr. Armand Despres, for thirty years surgeon to the Lourcine, the great hospital with upwards of 300 beds, devoted solely to the treatment of venereal diseases in women, says, "There are some police laws destined to regulate debauchery (the French C.D. Acts); thus the liberty of some women has

been destroyed in order to give security to debauched men, but the result has not answered expectation."

The Sanitary Commissioner of the Panjab reported to the Government, "That, notwithstanding the preventive arrangements of recent years, there is nowhere any substantial improvement in the condition of the troops as regards venereal diseases." (These "preventive arrangements," the C.D. Acts, have since been repealed).

The Army Sanitary Commission is the highest hygienic authority in the British Army. That Commission, in 1893, forwarded to the Government a memorandum in which it was stated that the re-introduction of the Lock Hospital on sanitary grounds could not be recommended.

Mr Campbell-Bannerman, the Secretary of State for War, in reply to questions put in the House of Commons in June, 1894, said "That, after looking very carefully into the matter, with the assistance of some of the most eminent and competent medical authorities, the conclusion to which he and every one else who had looked into the subject came to—was that these Acts had no practical effect whatever in checking the progress of disease. He also stated that, as a matter of fact, the number of men affected by this disease had diminished since the repeal of these Acts."

4. Because the C.D. Acts actually help to spread disease by creating a false sense of security.

M. Lecour says: "All these results prove that it (Prostitution) is now more dangerous than ever to the public health."

Dr. Jeannel acknowledges that the number of diseased persons is greater in Paris than in London (which has twice the population).

Dr. Drysdale made the same assertion before the most eminent Continental medical authorities at the Venereal Medical Congress held at Paris, and the truth of the assertion was frankly acknowledged.

When the French introduced the C.D. Acts into Algeria venereal disease amongst the soldiery increased until in a comparatively short time it had doubled.

The smallest amount of disease in the French army was among the troops who were quartered in Rome, where the Pope refused to allow the C.D. Acts to be put in operation.

Mr Acton, in his work on Prostitution, says "The hope of escaping punishment multiplies vicious habits, and many men are tempted by the health examinations who otherwise would never incur the risk."

He tells of men who have travelled hundreds of miles, lured by a false security, to visit French brothels, where periodical examinations are carried out, and have immediately contracted a foul disorder.

Professor Andrews says: "As a professional man I have been compelled to laugh at the frequent instances where young Americans have, with infinite gullibility, co-habited with loose women in Paris, because they supposed it safe there, but were utterly astonished afterwards to find that they had contracted syphilis."

Many other reasons could be given. For example: The C.D. Acts should be repealed because "it is immoral for the State to legalise vice." But the "Four Reasons" alone should be sufficient to show that the example set by England—years ago—in repealing these abominable Acts should be followed by New Zealand without delay