

attendance. The expense would be considerable, but he thought the State would be more than repaid by results. **He was not in favour of notification of venereal diseases,** at any rate not for the present.

### 23rd Sitting.

The Honourable Albinia Brodrick, representing the Irish Association and the National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland, dealt with the importance of education with regard to venereal disease, and the importance of a special course of instruction for nurses. The education of the general public should include the education of children in the laws of sex. This might be done in the primary school through the medium of botany, and this would prepare the way for teaching at a later stage regarding the human subject. Special teachers would be required. A great factor in the spread of these diseases was the ignorance in which women have designedly been kept in regard to them. She condemned the practice of the medical profession of treating women without allowing them to know the nature of the disease. She thought greater facilities for treatment should be provided, including evening clinics, and that in the case of women especially the disease should be stated openly, and the results to the offspring clearly pointed out. She recommended notification of venereal diseases, confidentially, at present, but later on as in the case of other infectious diseases.

### 24th Sitting.

Dr. Armand Route, Consulting Physician to the Charing Cross Hospital and the Samaritan Free Hospital for Women and Children, gave evidence relating to the effects of this disease on the birth of children. **He was not in favour of compulsory notification of venereal diseases, for many men and most women would not consult a doctor,** but would either remain untreated or consult venereal quacks.

Dr. Chalmers, Medical Officer of Health for Glasgow, and Dr. Parkes, Medical Officer of Health for Chelsea, representing their Society, were agreed that compulsory notification would defeat the object in view, early diagnosis and early treatment. Speaking for their Society, they would empower all local authorities to offer full facilities for treatment

for any person applying therefor, whether resident or not within the district of such local authority.

—From "The Shield," April, 1914.

### A Few of the Measures Being Taken for the Reduction of Venereal Disease.

England is not waiting for the report of the Royal Commission before taking active steps to combat the inroads of venereal disease. The London Hospital intends to build a well-equipped wing for the modern treatment of syphilis. The Grocers' Company have offered the £10,000 needed to build this department. Its upkeep will require some £2000 a year.

At Glasgow the Corporation has undertaken to apply the Wassermann test to samples of blood sent them by doctors within the city boundaries. No doctor required to give any name or indication of the patient. A similar arrangement is being introduced at Wimbledon.

The Sheffield Infirmary has established an evening clinic for the treatment of venereal disease. Four beds have been set apart for venereal patients, and efforts are being made to admit such for week-end treatment, so as not to interfere with their work. These facilities are only for men, presumably because so many more men than women are affected, but it seems a pity that women cannot have like facilities.

The Sheffield University is arranging a course of post-graduate lectures on venereal disease.

The London Lock Hospital has had an evening clinic for some time, and has just announced a post-graduate course of lectures.

Glasgow University has established a Lectureship on Venereology, the first of its kind, we believe, in Britain.

The Royal Institute of Public Health announces lectures on the subject, some of a technical character for doctors, and others more general for the ordinary public. The March (1914) number of the Institute's organ, "The Journal of State Medicine," has a remarkable article on Sexual Disease and the Individual; an International Problem, by A. Corbett Smith. It concludes with the assertion, "The solution of the problem lies in the education of the individual."

### EARLY CLOSING OF HOTEL BARS.

During the present war it has been conclusively proved that alcohol is a great enemy to national efficiency. Russia has gone in for prohibition of vodka, and France of absinthe. Great Britain has shortened the hours for the sale of liquor. South Australia carried 6 o'clock closing by a large majority. New South Wales is working for early closing, and is magnificently led by the N.S.W. Alliance. Queensland and Victoria are moving in the same direction.

We have prided ourselves that New Zealand leads the way in temperance reform, but we can do so no longer. Not a single public man has announced his intention of following the King's example and banishing strong drink from his household. The Houses of Parliament, voting by ballot, decided not to close the bar at Bellamy's during the war. Then occurred a state of affairs here which we never have had before. People asking in bewilderment why the temperance people of New Zealand were lagging behind, and not pressing for early closing. The W.C.T.U. decided to give people an opportunity of asking the Government to close hotel bars at 6 p.m. daily. The time allowed for the petition was short, but people everywhere were anxious to sign, canvassers announcing only about 2 per cent. of failures.

We are hoping and praying for success. Surely when all other British Dominions are moving in this direction we will not be content to be left behind. But whether we succeed or fail, we have tried, and if we fail, yet when the Government are asked at the ballot box why they did not grant our petition, they will be unable to say there was no public demand for early closing.

### ORGANISING FUND.

The following donations have been received for the Organising Fund during June and July, 1915:—

June 30th (per Miss Powell)—Mr F. Ferriman, Ashburton, £1; Mr W. Bullock, Ashburton, £1; Mr W. Morrow, Ashburton, £2; small donations, Ashburton, 15s.

July 31st (per Miss Powell)—Oxford Union, £1; Mr R. Evans, £1; Mr Jas. Knight, £1; proceeds meeting, 6s.

ALICE R. C. TAYLOR,

Treasurer, Organising Fund.  
"Coveney," Balgownie, Wanganui.