

## GEMS FROM POLICE REPORT, 1915.

Superintendent Ellison of Wellington District in his annual report says "If a respectable citizen has the misfortune to have a child taken ill of scarlatina, measles, or other infectious disease, he has to report at once to the health officer, but the avaricious money-making harlots, to whom I refer, are all at liberty to contaminate the nation from end to end, because innocent persons suffer—as do their children—just as much or more than the men who personally patronise these diseased women. One need not wonder at the number of young people wearing glasses, artificial teeth, and other evidences of constitutional weakness when female vultures are able to fatten and become wealthy while they disseminate disease in a wholesale manner."

Commissioner Cullen in commenting upon the above report says, "As regards the larger question touched upon by the Superintendent, relative to the spread of venereal disease, I can only say that I fully endorse his remarks, and think it is a matter which should receive the attention of the Public Health Authorities. While stringent regulations are in force dealing with the isolation and treatment of other infectious and contagious diseases, no attempt is made to prevent these women from spreading a disease which is more injurious and far-reaching in its consequences."

In reading these extracts, one would think that only women were able to spread this disease as neither of these distinguished police officers asks for the Public Health Act to deal with male prostitutes, only women are mentioned. Now we object to all sex differentiation, but if only one sex is to be dealt with, we say the male prostitute is the more dangerous to the health of the nation. These women could do no harm to innocent wives and children were it not for the male prostitute who resorts to them, and with criminal indifference goes home to take disease to unsuspecting wife and helpless infant. The man who resorts to these women knows perfectly well the risk he is running, and is no innocent victim. The young wife at home never suspects that the husband, who has sworn to love and cherish her, wilfully and cruelly brings to her the deadly disease, which makes

her a life-long sufferer, renders her childless or the mother of diseased children, deprived of their right to be well-born, and doomed to misery, suffering and shame.

In all ages of the world, men have tried in all ways to sin and avoid its consequences, but this is always impossible. The only way to get rid of venereal disease permanently is to avoid the sin which causes it.

Scarlet Fever, Plague, Cholera, are dirt diseases, and while doctors use every endeavour to cure sufferers from these diseases, sanitary inspectors clean up the dirt conditions which cause them.

Yellow Fever flourished on Panama and other tropical regions, and was only banished when the swamps were drained and the mosquito, the carrier of disease germ was banished.

While we believe in doing everything possible to help sufferers from venereal disease, we must face the fact that no treatment has ever been discovered which can guarantee a cure. This dreadful disease has been a mighty factor in the downfall of the great empires of antiquity. Let us not make the mistake they made, and try to cure the disease without ridding ourselves of the immorality which causes it.

Let the White Ribbon women of our Dominion, the mothers of the race, set up the standard of the "white life for two."

When men live as chastely as their wives we shall hear no more of innocent women and children afflicted with venereal disease, even though "these women" be still with us.

## RED CROSS WORK.

Christchurch W.C.T.U. has sent during the month to the Lady Liverpool Fund: 20 undershirts, 11 pairs socks, 2 scarves, 1 Balaclava cap, 1 pair slippers, 5 pairs pyjamas, 10 nightshirts, 2 pairs under pants, 7 face cloths, 5 bottle covers, 1 ice bag, 5 foment cloths, 5 operation cloths, 27 tray cloths, 3 large parcels medicine cloths. The sum of £9 15 4d was given and collected by friends and members towards the Fund for buying material and wool.

The "White Ribbon" will be posted to any address on receipt of 2s 6d, payable to Mrs Peryman, Johnsonville.

## MAORI DEPARTMENT.

Dear Friends,—I wish to thank the Winchmore, Gisborne, Christchurch, Pahiatua, Onehunga, and Nelson Unions for keeping our Maori department in mind on White Ribbon Day, and taking up a collection for it, and also Mrs Fairlie, of this (Gisborne) district, who has already got her collecting card filled and returned to me. I am very sorry to have to report that our capable and faithful Organiser, Miss Woodhead, has had another serious breakdown in health since Convention, which has resulted in her being obliged to relinquish her work. In spite of this, however, the department has not been idle. Literature is being distributed, and we have had some useful leaflets in the Maori language drawn up and printed ready for distribution in the native camps. Devonport Union must be given the credit for this suggestion, and the good work that they are doing in this direction. All Unions having such camps in their neighbourhood can give great assistance by distributing those, and can have them forwarded on application to me. One of these leaflets contains Lord Kitchener's Appeal to Soldiers. Another, "The Testimony of Leading Doctors as to the Effect of Alcohol," more especially in regard to the life of the soldier, recovery from wounds, greater power to resist sickness, undergo hardships, etc., and also gives the splendid results of total abstinence in the Duke of Wellington's Own Regiment in India, 700 out of 1000 of whom were total abstainers. A third contains a general appeal to the natives on the drink question for the benefit of the race from every point of view. I would remind Unions of the desirability of appointing local superintendents who would arrange for the collection and forwarding of some financial assistance from every Union to this department every year. We have had the names of one or two suitable persons submitted to us, who may be able to take over the organising work, and we expect to make a forward move with this work when the winter is over. Do not let this important branch of our work be hampered for want of funds.—Yours in Union service,

N. F. WALKER.  
Upper Fox Street, Gisborne.