

regulation has failed in what it was intended to do. This view has become more and more prominent at the last two International Conferences on the Suppression of Venereal Disease, and in the latest book on the subject, by Abraham Flexner, who was sent by the American Bureau of Social Science to investigate the problem in Europe, the writer after a most exhaustive investigation, comes to the conclusion that as carried out in France and Germany, regulation is of little or no value as a hygienic measure. It is recognised that to be effectual every city would require a large staff of medical experts, microscopists, bacteriologists, and pathologists, and that daily examination of the women and their clients would be necessary. It is admitted that even then certain cases would escape medical scrutiny, and clandestine prostitution, an even greater danger, would remain untouched.

Sir Charles Kinnaird Mackeller, M.D., for 43 years in practice in Sydney, said, "I am entirely against the C.D. Acts for this reason: wherever the C.D. Acts are in force we know that venereal diseases are rife, which emphasises the fact that these Acts are failures. There is no doubt that they do fail in any large city, and that the only places where they have been successful are small garrison towns or military cantonments. They have been a success in India, but you cannot drum-major the whole of the people of a country in such a manner."

And why have these Acts been a success in India? Because when a regiment went to a place word was sent ahead that so many women were wanted. These women were kept in cantonments practically as slaves to satisfy the lusts of the soldiers. When diseased they were put away. Do New Zealand women wish to see white slaves established in our midst? The C.D. Acts only dealt with women, but now there is a suggestion to apply these Acts equally to men and women. If men knew that every time they visited a registered house or woman, they would be detained and examined, they would not go there, and doctors and police tell us that there are many clandestine prostitutes they could go to.

Doctors who favoured regulation took up this position that prostitution always had existed and always would

exist, and that Government should provide clean women for soldiers and civilians. This position no self-respecting woman can agree with. Once admit that these slaves of man's lust must be supplied, and then you justify all the tricks and wiles of the White Slave Dealer to supply them. For every land emphasises the fact that sufficient women will not voluntarily take up this life.

#### NOTIFICATION.

Many people think that every case of venereal disease should be notified the same as any other contagious disease. But the objections to this course have been set forth by many witnesses. Practically all the medical evidence given before the British Royal Commission was against notification, and the Commission recommended: "No system of notification should be put in force at the present time."

Dr E. C. Corlett said that the N.S.W. Committee set up by the Australian Medical Congress had considered notification, and there was a preponderance of opinion against it. I think that practically everybody thought that even if tried it would not succeed. Those who thought it might be tried were not men engaged in private practice. His own opinion was that notification was a beautiful dream. He was certain it would prevent patients submitting themselves for treatment, and he was sure if legislation were passed making notification compulsory the Act would be treated as so much waste paper. He himself would treat it as such. He was certain that the majority of medical men were not in favour of notification.

Dr L. P. Johnston said notification was the worst thing that could possibly take place. Some doctors are unscrupulous, and it would become known that they would not notify. They would get many patients, and they might not be the best men to treat them.

Dr J. Foreman, for 32 years at Prince Alfred Hospital, thought compulsory notification would not do any good, and did not think it practicable. It would have the effect of breaking up the homes of married people.

Sir T. A. Stuart, Professor of Physiology at Sydney University, and Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, and Chairman of Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, said logically notification ought to be

good, but life was not logical, and persons would not notify, they would conceal cases. When there is no notification, and a man gets gonorrhoea, he goes to his doctor; but if he knew the doctor would notify his case he would not go to him, he would go to a quack, and no legal enactment would ever repress quacks.

#### ALCOHOL AND VENEREAL DISEASES.

The British Royal Commission Report says: "Our evidence tends to show that the communication of disease is frequently due to indulgence in intoxicants, and there is no doubt that the growth of temperance among the population would help to bring about an amelioration of the very serious conditions which our enquiry has revealed."

Dr Johnston said that in the army in England the daily average of men off duty in hospital from syphilis has fallen from 17 per 1000 to .2 per 1000, and this was attributable to the temperance movement. Asked if he did not think it was due to increased care in the matter of hygiene, he replied: "More to the men becoming more temperate. The consumption of alcohol and the infection from syphilis go hand in glove. Patients of his, mostly married men, have a night out with their friends, indulge too much in liquor and become infected."

Dr C. E. Corlette said the Committee appointed by Australian Medical Congress recommended that one means of reducing syphilis was by reducing the amount of drink taken. Personally he had charge of outpatient department at Sydney Hospital, and saw many cases of venereal disease. He asked the men how they came by the disease, and the reply mostly was: "Well, I had a drop of drink in me or the woman would not have got me." The effect of alcohol on a man's brain was to make him fall into the hands of a woman. Alcohol also aggravates the manifestation of the disease.

Dr Worrall said: "There is a very close connection between drink and venereal disease. When a man is intoxicated his caution is dissipated, his controlling centres are in abeyance. Men will make a young girl drink. The back parlours of hotels and wine shops are sinks of iniquity. I know many striking cases of girls seduced in these back parlours."