

Sir T. A. Stuart, Dean of Medical Faculty at Sydney University, believed there was a close connection between alcohol and venereal disease. Alcohol stimulated the sexual appetite and lessened self-control. Limiting the hours for the sale of alcohol would lessen the evil consequences that follow.

Dr Rennie: "There is no doubt that alcoholism does aggravate syphilitic infection."

The nation that licenses the rum-seller and the prostitute has set to work the two most powerful agents for its decay and destruction. Licensing these two agents is the shortest way to race suicide.

A WOMAN'S QUESTION.

Much evidence was given of the evil these diseases cause to innocent wives and children. One doctor said in 3 weeks in his practice he had had 17 wives who had been infected by their husbands. He also said in 70 per cent. of the young married women who required operations it was due to their husbands infecting them with gonorrhoea. At Prince Alfred Hospital, which has a night clinic for treatment of these diseases, they get many wives for treatment in this way. The husband comes, and then they ask for the wife to be brought. There was a diversity of opinion as to whether a wife should be told what was the cause of her trouble. One doctor said he would not like to tell a wife what was the matter with her, but he would like to tell the husband what he thought of him.

Dr Worrall, for 27 years connected with Sydney Hospital, said he invariably told a wife as he thought it was a cruel wrong not to warn her.

Dr E. H. Molesworth thought a wife should be told, but the onus should not be laid upon the medical man. He always urged the husband to make a clean breast of it to his wife. All evidence given tended to show that there never was any certainty as to when these diseases were cured, and many sad cases were given of husbands who had married, thinking themselves cured, and had infected their wives. Many witnesses were in favour of making it a criminal offence to pass on this disease to another. Many witnesses told of the large number of wives who were rendered by their husband's sins unable to bear children at all, or only able to become the mothers of diseased children.

PROPOSED REMEDIES.

The remedies proposed fall under two heads: (1) To deal with the disease amongst us now; (2) To prevent the spread of the disease in the future.

The chief measure to deal with the disease was by means of the treatment provided for all who present themselves. Great stress was laid by all medical men upon the necessity of early treatment for these diseases. Patients should be encouraged to come, they should be treated in ordinary hospitals not in special ones. The clinic at Prince Alfred Hospital in Sydney was reported to be doing good work, but more accommodation was wanted.

All witnesses were in favour of education on sex hygiene being given to young people, but there was great difference of opinion as to what age this should begin. The education should be by both men and women doctors, and most witnesses thought it would be harmful to begin before 14 years of age. The teaching of the young child should be done by its mother, and the mother who neglects to give this education is guilty of criminal negligence. A very hopeful feature of the evidence was that many witnesses held that teaching should appeal to the moral sense.

Dr C. E. Corlette said a strong moral sense is a more powerful deterrent than the fear of consequences.

Sir T. A. Stuart, M.D.: "At the International Congress held in Brussels in 1900 it was unanimously resolved by delegates from most European and American nations that the most important and most effectual means for combating the diffusion of venereal maladies consist in widespread information as to the importance of these maladies, and the grave danger attending them. It is especially necessary to teach the young men not only that chastity and continence are not injurious, but that these practices are wholly recommended from the medical point of view. With this opinion he was absolutely in agreement, and it was exactly what he taught in connection with the men training in the camps.

WAR REGULATIONS BILL.

This question is to come before our Parliament, introduced by a clause in the War Regulations Bill. This clause gives the Governor-in-Council power to make such provision as he

may think fit for the suppression of prostitution, or the prevention of venereal disease. The W.C.T.U. has protested against this clause, because when a question like this affecting a large number of women is before a House, composed wholly of men, and any provisions made would be carried out by male police and male magistrates and judges, we think the women of this Dominion should know exactly what the Government propose to do. Any measures should be openly passed through the House, and not secretly brought in by Order-in-Council. We voice our protest against any return to the bad old days of Star Chamber legislation.

It seems to us that all the Government want is to protect soldiers from disease. It must be the part of the women to see that their measures do not recognise regulation of vice. The cause of these diseases is the sin of immorality. We must speak with no uncertain voice on this question. Prostitution and immorality are sins, venereal disease their natural consequence. Let us attack the sin that causes the disease. Any measures that would imply a degradation of womanhood, or that would countenance the assumption that women must be enslaved to satisfy men's lust will mean national decay and ruin. History clearly teaches that nations which respect their women rise high in the scale of nations. The Germanic nations of old who respected their women and honoured them easily overcame the degraded remnants of the Roman Empire. The German soldier of to-day has been taught that woman is for his convenience only, and the effects of that teaching were shown in their bestial treatment of the women of Belgium and Northern France. Let our soldiers have the higher ideal of "a white life for two." Theft and murder have for centuries been looked upon as crimes, and punished as such, but we still have thieves and murderers. And we doubt not that breakers of the moral law will be with us, but let us tell them that immorality is sin, and treat it as such. From the standpoint of national efficiency it is the deadliest of all sins, the sin which always brings national ruin and death. While we pity those who have sinned, and are willing to do all we can to help them with free treatment; let us educate the rising generation to a higher moral standard. It was only