

their strong religious feeling that saved the Jews from this vice, and which has kept them a people to this day. It is only by inculcating a strong religious feeling that we can save the youth of to-day. All reform work along these lines will be slow, but it does not matter so much the speed we are travelling at as it matters the direction in which we are going—upward, ever upward. Terrible as is the physical suffering and the physical menace to the race of these diseases, far more terrible is the moral state of the people which is responsible for their rapid spread. The only prevention is chastity and continence, and these have been pronounced by the highest medical experts as not injurious for a man but good for him.

"If my body come from brutes, tho'  
somewhat finer than their own,  
I am heir and this my kingdom.  
Shall the royal voice be mute?  
No, but if the rebel subject seek to  
drag me from the throne,  
Hold the Sceptre, Human Soul, and  
rule thy Province of the brute."

#### WOMEN'S MEETING.

A public meeting for women was held on the afternoon of Tuesday, June 27th, in the large room of the Y.W.C.A., Herbert Street, Wellington. The meeting was promoted by some of the women's societies, especially the Society for Protection of Women and Children, and its purpose was to consider certain clauses in the War Regulations Bill affecting women.

The room was well filled, and the chair was occupied by Mrs Luke, the Mayoress.

The first resolution was moved as follows by Dr. Edith Huntley:—"That this meeting appeals to Parliament to provide, without delay, for free hospital and dispensary treatment of all sufferers from these diseases who voluntarily present themselves for treatment, and also to inaugurate a campaign of preventive education." It was useless, she said, for the Government to try openly to reinstate the C.D. Acts, for they knew that New Zealand women would never allow it, and their vote gave them power to oppose. But if women were not keenly watchful, they might find equivalent legislation being brought in through Orders-in-Council, as provided for in the War Regulations Bill.

As women objected to the attempt to deal with prostitution and venereal diseases by the methods of the C.D. Acts, they were bound to suggest other measures in their place, and so far the only ones they could suggest were those embodied in this resolution. One thing every woman could do to help, and that was to write to the M.P. of her district, asking him to state his attitude towards these particular clauses in the War Regulations Bill. She read three letters from a member of Parliament that she had written to, stating that the intention of clause V. was not to reintroduce the C.D. Acts, but to give the police power to prosecute the keepers of one-woman brothels. But, she asked, were women satisfied with such an assertion, in view of the undefined powers conferred on the Government by the clause in question? The member had to admit it was quite possible to place on it an interpretation totally different from the one just stated. She was glad to be able to tell them that a meeting of 50 or more women had just been held in Nelson, at which similar resolutions of protest had been passed.

The resolution was briefly seconded by Mrs Houlder, of the Wellington District W.C.T.U., and was unanimously carried.

The second resolution: "That this meeting of women strongly protests against Section 3, Clause (d) (v), of the War Regulations Bill, which confers on the Governor-in-Council the power to make regulation provisions for the suppression of prostitution and the prevention of venereal diseases, and urgently suggests that any such provisions should be openly moved and discussed by Parliament, and submitted to representatives of women's societies," was moved by Dr. Platts-Mills, who said that for five generations, ever since the first efforts put forth by Josephine Butler, women had been working to free their weaker sisters from the ignominy of regulated vice. All the legislation on the subject had been made in order to make vice more easy and safe for men, but any proposal to restrain men, or even to heal them, had been howled down.

The resolution was seconded by Dr. von Danneville in a few forceful sentences, and was unanimously carried.

A collection was taken up to defray the expenses of the meeting, and on

the motion of Mrs Atkinson, it was resolved that any surplus should be given to the fund for the widows and orphans of sailors lost in the North Sea battle.

The third resolution, "That this meeting views with indignation the proposal of the War Regulations Bill to give the Governor-in-Council power to regulate the sale of intoxicating liquor to women, and calls upon the Government, in the interests of national economy and efficiency, to regulate the sale to men and women alike by putting six o'clock closing of hotel bars upon the Statute Book without delay," was moved by Mrs McVicar, and seconded by Mrs Donaldson, who emphasised the point that there must be one law operating for both sexes. She protested against the indignity put upon women by the insertion of the words "to women" in the clause referred to, and urged that if, as we should be told, the regulation was intended to apply to the "unfortunate class," it was all the more the duty of the more fortunate and the stronger to stand by their weaker sisters, and help them by their strength.

The resolution was carried unanimously, after which a hearty vote of thanks was passed to Mrs Luke for so ably presiding, and to the Y.W.C.A. for the use of their room.

In answer to a question, it was stated that the free dispensary and free treatment of venereal diseases, advocated by the British Royal Commission, was already being tried, and that Manchester so far showed the best results, which bid fair to prove this method successful in stamping out the dread disease.

#### NELSON.

A representative meeting of women was held on June 26th to protest against the two clauses in the War Regulations Amendment Bill, referring to the sale of intoxicants to women and the prevention of venereal diseases. The meeting was well attended, and the following resolutions were passed, being moved by Miss Atkinson and Mrs Field respectively: (1) "That this meeting of women of Nelson requests the Government to delete the words 'to women' in clause (iii) of sub-section (d), section 3, of the War Regulations Amendment Bill."