

ently. It is pretty certain that an intoxicated or semi-intoxicated man would almost infallibly fail in the minutiae of the protective process, and therefore become infected. If a man, as is very probable in some circumstances, incurs a risk of infection three or four times in a few hours, it is very improbable that before each performance he is likely again satisfactorily to protect himself.

"It follows from all this that there will always be a certain percentage of cases infected even if prophylactic precautions are taken. If 100 men were exposed to the chances of infection unprotected, and 100 protected by prophylactic measures, in all probability the percentage of cases of infection would be a good deal larger in those unprotected. But if the doctrine of prophylaxis were widely preached and the efficacy of the methods insisted on, the chances are that a very much larger number of young men would run the risk of infection than is now the case.

"I have no doubt myself that fear of contracting venereal disease of either sort is a very potent inducement to a number of young men to keep straight, and I am sure that the impression that a perfectly sure method of avoiding infection could be used would lead a larger number of men to run the risk. If they know and thoroughly understand the fact that gonorrhoea is a very serious disease, and that syphilis in its latest stages spells ataxia and general paralysis of the insane, they are afraid of running the chance of contracting either.

"It is a well known fact to all social workers that the standard of what I may call practical morality among young women of every class of society has gradually deteriorated since, some twenty years ago, the Malthusian propaganda began and the public display and advertisement of Malthusian appliances followed. The fear that a lapse from morality would mean an increase in the population was an extremely potent factor in ensuring the chastity of young girls.

"I am certain that among young men the fear of infection with venereal disease acts in the same way, and I consider that on this matter I am probably better fitted to speak with authority than most men of my age and standing, because I was a competitor in first-class athletic events until I was 38 years old, and before that

time and ever since I have been in the closest touch with young men athletes, in every class of the community, serving on committees and acting as president of athletics, cycling, and football clubs, and as a member of the governing bodies of sport. If the idea that illicit sexual intercourse could be indulged in with impunity became at all general, I am sure that the gross number of cases of venereal disease would be by no means diminished, though the actual percentage of cases of infection after exposure would probably be a great deal lower.

"Where I have spoken on several occasions at varying intervals at a camp, depot, or training centre for soldiers, I have been informed by the commanding officers that, after putting before them the results of these diseases and exhorting them by everything that a young man particularly holds sacred—his honour, his patriotism, his chivalry, and his sportsmanship—to keep straight, the first result of the lecture has been to induce a certain number of men to report sick who had been previously concealing disease; a second result was that, so long as the particular unit to which the lecture had been addressed remained, there was a diminution varying from 50 to 80 per cent. in the number of cases of venereal diseases reported.

"If prophylactic outfits are issued and prophylaxis taught in the army, it stands to reason that the practice must be extended to civilians. Workers in munition factories are nearly as important as soldiers in the fighting line, and among them there is a fairly extensive prevalence of the disease. Further, if these methods are taught and put before men, it follows that they must also be put before women, a prospect from which I am not ashamed to say I recoil with horror.

"In giving this statement, I have put on one side every question of religion, morality, or aesthetics, and have confined myself simply to what as a physician and man of the world, I consider likely to happen.

"B. B. TUCKER, F.R.C.S."

The Women's Christian Temperance Union strongly condemns and opposes the practice of issuing to soldiers going on leave, prophylactic packets of appliances and drugs intended to enable them to indulge in licentiousness without danger of infection.

Even if such protection were reliable (which it is not) the practice is mischievous and indefensible. It embodies in the worst form the error of treating men as bodies only. Such protection cannot be provided, or even connived at, without conveying the impression that the authorities do not really expect self-control, however much they may talk about it. The result will inevitably be to lessen the resisting power of tempted men, and to increase the number of those who yield. When immorality is thus encouraged, habits are formed which must lead to far-reaching evil consequences, and ultimately to increased disease.

STRENGTH OF NATION MOVEMENT.

Mrs Lee-Cowie, Organiser, Otago Province.

"We all could do more than we do,
And not be a whit the worse;
It never was **loving** that emptied the heart,
Or **giving** that emptied the purse."

There were hindrances in the way for a visit to North Otago, but they all melted away when we reached Oamaru. Rev. Lochore and Rev. Hunter gave me valuable counsel and help, and work began straight away. My helper, Miss Waterman, had to return home next day with severe influenza, but I battled on against my own cold, and rejoiced in 103 names for the first week. One name is that of Alexander Crow, of Maheno, in his 91st year. He has been an enthusiast for Temperance since he heard Father Matthew at ten years of age. May he live to see Prohibition in New Zealand.

Everywhere I find the people most ready and willing to respond to our appeals on behalf of our great movement. The audiences are necessarily small, as I am visiting little, remote hamlets and villages, but the warm hearts are quick to leap to the call of God and enrol under His glorious leadership.

The Southland campaign was begun amid "showers of blessing." Comrades, pray for me as I do for you.