

been such that the whole liability could be met by only a slight increase in the taxes, without raising anything by debentures. In Massachusetts, from 25 years' statistics, it was found that municipal debts were 8 per cent. less in No-License districts than in License; cost of police was 22 per cent. less; vote for education was 40 per cent. more; 48 per cent. less was given to charity; 25 per cent. more to good roads. No statesman who studied these and similar facts would dare argue on any public platform that the Liquor Traffic was needed to supply the revenue of a community.

We spend money on Education, that our children may be properly equipped, yet the Liquor Traffic robs us of a great deal of their value. This could be shown in a striking way. Under the existing legislation, 4½ years must elapse before a poll carrying Prohibition could be effective. Taking the same ratio of loss of lives through drink as was found to act in Canada, 850 would be lost each year, making a total of 3800. Each life may be reckoned as worth £700 to New Zealand. Therefore the total loss in productive power would be £26,500,000, to which must be added the loss occasioned by drunkards who would lose at least one week's work each year.

Referring to the petitions before the people of New Zealand, Mr Simpson explained the attitude of the Alliance in accepting the Efficiency Board's recommendations, and pointed out the undemocratic nature of the Trade petition, with its three issues, and its claim that to carry prohibition there must be a clear majority over the other issues. In a most striking way he put the matter in a nutshell. "There is my friend Bell in the chair; I want to get there, so does my friend Gray; 100 votes are taken; Gray gets 50, I get 40, and Bell, who gets one, stays on in the chair. That's Democracy as interpreted by the Trade."

The Labour petition, he went on to say, was truly democratic, with its four issues and preferential voting, but for the sake of the workers, he, as a Labour man, would urge that the Efficiency Board's proposal should be fought for with all their might.

Mr Simpson concluded his address with a very fine peroration, and the singing of the National Anthem brought the proceedings to a close.

REVIEW.

HISTORY OF PROSTITUTION IN EUROPE.

(By Abram Flexner.)

This book is the second volume published by the Bureau of Social Hygiene. This Bureau was created as a result of the work of the Special Grand Jury which investigated the White Slave Traffic in New York City in 1910. They despatched a young journalist, Abram Flexner, to study the subject of Prostitution in Europe. Mr Flexner was a man without any prejudice, and with no previous opinion to sustain. He was fettered by no instructions, and given no thesis to prove or disprove. He was given the fullest facilities for enquiries, was directed to make a thorough and impartial examination, and to the work of enquiry and writing the book he devoted two years. He travelled all Western Europe, and found that from Glasgow to Buda Pesth the evolution of prostitution was the same in all cities. It was essentially an urban problem. In the Middle Ages all the great cities were Islamic. In medieval Europe the cities were small, and the prostitute was a marked woman. They were of two kinds, resident (in bordells) or itinerant (attached as camp followers to the great armies, temporal or spiritual). In Mediaeval Europe prostitution was limited and definite, but in modern Europe it is huge and vague. Our great cities, with their large floating populations, with many women detached from their families, render concealment easy, and at least half the prostitutes are clandestine and unregistered. In one city over 50 per cent. of diseased women were employed as waitresses, barmaids, etc. There were no segregated districts in Europe, but it was noteworthy that prostitution tended to associate itself with the sale of alcohol. Separate sections of the book deal with the questions of demand and supply. On the Continent the demand was almost universal. Most German men have had gonorrhoea, and about one in five syphilis. During the Middle Ages it was so universally allowed that chastity was harmful for males, that a sufficient supply of women was always obtained by way of entertaining church congresses. This is now questioned, and all modern scientific opinion states that chastity is not harmful, but beneficial to male

and female alike. Touton writes: "Europe has been a man's world, managed by men, and largely for men—and cynical men at that—men lacking in respect for womanhood. According to medical opinion, continence is not harmful. Even where neurotic disturbances occur, they are not comparable to the damage, corporal and moral, which attends irregular intercourse. In short, all the talk about manifestations due to abstinence is thus far, with few exceptions, a hodge-podge of superficial observations and uncritical interpretations."

Neither in Europe nor in Great Britain is there any systematic or general instruction in Sex Hygiene in the State Schools.

The supply comes chiefly from the lower working classes, and is mainly unmarried women. They are mostly uneducated, and detachment from home, and slum conditions, are mainly responsible for their downfall.

In dealing with prostitution, two opposite policies have been followed—regulation and abolition. The regulationist says that as a matter of fact prostitution exists; it cannot be summarily wiped out, but it makes for decency to get it to submit to police control. The abolitionists say that regulation fails to achieve its purpose, that it places the State in the position of authorising or legalising vice. That it is a compact with vice.

Systems of regulation differ in different countries, but all agree in stipulating that prostitutes registered with the police must heed certain restrictions placed upon their conduct in the interest of public order and decency, and that they must present themselves at regular intervals for medical examination in the interest of public health.

In Berlin inscription is either voluntary or compulsory; minors under eighteen cannot be inscripted, but in certain cases girls between 18 and 21 may be inscripted. Certain prominent thoroughfares, places of amusement and resort are interdicted to prostitutes. Their dwellings are under complete control, and all regulations are enforced by the morals police.

As the young girl under eighteen is most dangerous to health, the writer says: "If minors are not enrolled, the system collapses; if minors are enrolled, then society perpetrates an infamy."

Regulation has not improved the order of the streets. It prevents the