

perfect cleansing of the streets by allowing street-walking. Opinion in Europe is increasingly hostile to licensed houses. Segregation, that is the confining prostitutes in one locality, or a few definite localities, is not undertaken in any European city from Budapest to Glasgow. Clandestine prostitutes are more numerous than registered ones, and even these can never be segregated. Registered houses prosper only where trafficking is permitted. Dr. Baumgarten, of Vienna, says: "The Bordell is inseparable from traffic in girls." Without bordells there would be no white slave traffic. This traffic has lately been so sternly suppressed in Europe that the trafficker now seeks the safer pastures of Rio Janeiro and Buenos Ayres.

Though the sale of liquor is forbidden in bordells, it is yet carried on. "The business could not be carried on otherwise," said a madame.

With the extinction of the bordell, street conditions in Europe have improved. The few towns whose streets are strikingly free from prostitutes are, without exception, towns in which neither regulation nor bordell exists.

The bordell gives to sexual vice its most prominent advertisement. By working on the curiosity of the young and of strangers—its main patrons, by the way—it substantially increases demand; by requiring constant service of its inmates, it virtually increases supply. It is a most flagrant instance of exploitation for the benefit of third parties. For keeper's profit, men waste their substance and are infected by disease, while women are dragged down to the lowest depths of degradation and excess. The bordell is therefore something more than futile, something worse than inhuman. This is the conclusion, not of sentimentalists, but of police officers all over the Continent, many of whom are still administering the system. As far as order goes, it is impossible to make out a case for regulation.

In regard to regulation for disease, all prostitutes who are registered have to present themselves for examination, and clandestine (which on the Continent simply means unregistered) prostitutes are examined at the discretion of the Bureau Chief. The compulsory examination varies in frequency in the different centres; some insist upon weekly, others fortnightly, or even monthly examinations. In some cities the hospitals are good, and the

treatment up-to-date; others, such as Paris, are like a mediaeval prison. The quality of the examination also varies widely, but mostly it is very perfunctory. At Paris, when the author was present, the examining doctor gave from 15 to 30 seconds to each woman examined. Regulation implies the absence of any expectation of male restraint; it is society's tacit assent to laxity. There can be no question that State regulation of vice increases the volume of irregular intercourse and the number of those who participate in it. Regulation tends to increase miscellaneous sexual congress, and to whatever extent it increases irregular commerce by diminishing individual and social resistance, to that extent it tends to increase venereal disease. Is more congress with regulation not likely to result in more disease than would result from less congress and no regulation. The author held the view that intercourse with regulated women was safe, but when he studied the subject he saw no safety at all. There is no inspection of minors, as "no civilised society can permit a minor to brand herself as a professional prostitute, authorised by the community to earn her livelihood as such." Yet minors are the most attractive and dangerous, and clandestine prostitutes are the chief source of infection.

Regulationists all admit the failure of regulation. A Vienna Professor says: "As far as the good of regulation goes, I can speak from experience; the good can't possibly amount to much." Professor Messer: "The present system of regulation rather operates to increase the volume of venereal disease." Dr. Julius Engel Reimers: "It is absolutely clear that these diseases are no less common where regulation exists than in places where prostitutes enjoy unrestrained freedom to ply their trade." Verdict of history is against regulation. Many women pronounced healthy act as carriers, and transmit the disease from one patron to another.

The true inwardness of regulation on the Continent is the desire of the police to keep in touch with criminals and others who exploit women.

Voluntary treatment has been a success so far as the women are taking advantage of it.

In summing up, the author says that in so far as prostitution is due to

alcohol, to natural impulses denied legitimate expression, to mental or moral defects, laws are useless; the conditions must be altered.

"Civilisation has stripped for a life and death wrestle with tuberculosis, alcohol, and other plagues. It is on the verge of a similar struggle with the crasser forms of commercialised vice. Sooner or later it must fling down the gauntlet to the whole horrible thing. This will be the real contest—a contest that will tax the courage, the self-denial, the faith, the resources of humanity to their uttermost."

WELCOME SERVICE FOR THE RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS.

1. New members are called forward by the President, and introduced to the Branch. Members standing.
2. Secretary then reads the Declaration of Principles, the candidate having previously signed the pledge.
3. President welcomes them as follows:—On behalf of all here present, I welcome you into the ranks of those who are working for God, home, and every land. By the signing of the pledge and payment of membership dues, you are now a part of the largest organised body of women in the world, and have thus multiplied your influence and effectiveness in Temperance work a thousandfold. As members of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, we love and wear the white ribbon bow.

It is the beautiful badge of our organisation, heaven born, to promote a holy cause. It is also a blessed bond of fellowship, of which we are proud; a plea for purity of life; it is a pledge for total abstinence; it teaches the prohibition of the liquor traffic; proclaims the Gospel of Peace; is a prayer for home protection, predicts a safe path for the children's feet, and is an emblem of patriotism. It promises hope for the tempted, and help to the suffering; it prophesies the coming of Christ's Kingdom into all hearts, homes and governments.

The members will then rise, and the President will give the right hand of fellowship to the new members, and pin on the bows. All will then unite in singing "Blest be the Tie that Binds" (in "The White Ribbon Hymnal"), or some other suitable hymn, closing with "The Lord Bless Thee," etc.