

hopelessness. They said that their honour had been snatched from them, and that since that had gone nothing else mattered.

"European people seemed to be under the impression that the Indian immigrant had but brought an immoral mode of life with him into the colony. As a matter of fact, the home life of the village people in the United Provinces, the district from which most of the Indian people were recruited, is so safeguarded as to warrant the statement that they are more free from social evils than any other people in the world."

The scope of Miss Garnham's investigations included the provision made for hospital treatment of the women and children and for education. She concludes her report with the following recommendations:—

"1. All indentures should be cancelled at as early date as possible.

"2. Every possible means should be taken to bring about a normal sex ratio. The evils arising from the unnatural sex proportion are by far the greatest to be contended with. The worst possible feature is the way in which quite young girls are literally sold to the highest bidder. All sense of decency and chastity is lost where such conditions obtain.

"3. The coolie lines are entirely unsuitable for married people. Separate houses should be built for them.

It has been shown that privacy is impossible in the lines, and that no proper home life is possible.

"4. Women doctors and certificated nurses should be appointed to all hospitals and dispensaries where women are treated.

"5. The hope for the future well-being of the colony lies in the children. Every possible means should be taken to counteract the demoralising influences of Indian life in the colony. A suitable scheme of education will do much to accomplish this.

"6. The new marriage ordinances should be revised so as to make all Indian custom marriages legally valid."

After full consideration of the report, the Committee has decided to petition the Fijian Government to carry out the reforms suggested by Miss Garnham.

DR. ARTHUR D. BEVAN URGES MEDICAL PROFESSION TO JOIN IN A NATIONAL EFFORT TO ELIMINATE DRINK.

At the annual meeting of the Medical Association this year before a great audience in which, besides the representatives of more than 81,000 physicians, members of the Association, were the Surgeon-General of the Army, General Gorgas, and of the Navy, General Braisted, titled representatives of foreign powers and the Governor of the State of Illinois, the incoming President, Dr Arthur Dean Bevan, urged the medical profession to join in a national effort to eliminate drink.

"As we analyse the facts in a scientific and medical way there can be no doubt of the injurious effects of alcoholic drink on both the physical and mental well-being of our population. There can be no doubt that the greatest single factor that we can control in the interest of the public health of the nation would be the elimination of alcoholic drink.

"In the slow evolution of civilisation, many great wrongs persisted for centuries because people have become so accustomed to them that they were accepted as matters of course. They became so entrenched that it required either centuries of education or a revolution to extirpate or right them. Great epidemics and plagues were accepted as inevitable and as visitations of God. Government by autocratic power and divine right without the consent of the governed has been tolerated. Slavery with its horrors was defended. The unequal rights of women went unquestioned. Among these great wrongs too long tolerated, none has done more injury to mankind than drink. Events now are moving more rapidly in the convulsions of a world-war. Women have demanded and will obtain, as they deserve the world over, their equal rights. The course of events is writing the death warrant of autocracy and rule by divine right; and science and education should eliminate not only the plagues and epidemics but also the curse of drink from the world.

"I want to plead for the united action of the medical profession of this country to secure protection by law against the injury that drink is doing to our people, not as a political measure, but as the most important pub-

lic health measure that could be secured. In this crisis when we and our allies are fighting not only for ourselves but for humanity and civilisation, we must organise the entire nation in the most efficient possible way, and this cannot be done without eliminating drink. Each member of the medical profession, as an individual, each county medical society, each state medical society should take an active part in the propaganda against drink, and secure national prohibition, not years from now, but now when it is badly needed and will accomplish so much good, not only for our boys in khaki and blue, but for the nation in arms. And when it has once been done away with, it could no more be resurrected after the war than could be slavery."

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MELBOURNE ANGLICAN SYNOD.

DECLARES FOR WAR-TIME PROHIBITION.

In moving the resolution in favour of this, Rev. F. E. Crotty said:—

"Even if Prohibition were not perfect, yet it is a magnificent thing. Even if we could not save the hardened drinker, we could save the children now living and the children yet to be. (Hear, hear.) Start now! He agreed that Prohibition might not be the ideal way, but this is not an ideal world. We must face facts. If this were an ideal world, and if all the people were well informed on the subject of alcohol, and men all sincere Christians, he believed that all would be total abstainers. (Hear, hear.) But this was not an ideal world, and the consequence was that Prohibition was necessary all through human history and life. In view of the pressing problems of the war, also those affecting economic and social conditions, also the great importance of the work of repatriation and other post-war problems, he urged them to support this motion in favour of Prohibition for the period of the war and of the repatriation of our soldiers. He believed that such a measure of Prohibition would be a step in the right direction of economy, efficiency, social reform, and moral progress—(hear, hear)—and by so doing we would be helping to build up in this way the City of God in the land we love." (Applause.)