

prevented from reproducing their kind.

Mr Sole is right. We want big men to tackle these questions. Our cities must be made safe for little children, and "nought that defileth" should be allowed to enter there.

Don't let us make a mistake—the dual standard must go. Either we must lift the standard of the man up to that of the woman, or we shall have a lowering of her standard to his.

TRUTH NEVER DIES.

Truth never dies. The ages come and go,

The mountains wear away, the seas retire;

Destruction lays earth's mighty cities low,

And empires, states, and dynasties expire;

But, caught and handed onward by the wise,

Truth never dies.

Though unreceived and scoffed at through the years,

Though made the butt of ridicule and jest,

Though held aloft for mockery and jeers,

Denied by those of transient power possessed,

Insulted by the insolence of lies—

Truth never dies.

It answers not, it does not take offence;

But with a mighty silence bides its time,

As some great cliff that braves the elements

And lifts through all the storms its head sublime,

And never dies.

As rests the sphinx amid Egyptian sands,

As looms on high the snowy peak and crest,

As firm and patient as Gibraltar stands.

So truth, unwearied, waits the era blest

When men shall turn to it with great surprise.

Truth never dies.

—Unidentified.

APOLOGY.

Dear Sisters,—

I owe an apology to the members of Convention, and especially to my colleagues, Mrs Peryman and Miss Henderson, for having inserted the report re Examination Syllabus for Organisers, without my signature. It was a pure oversight.—Yours in W.R. bonds,
KATE M. EVANS.

June 17th, 1919.

THE SOCIAL EVIL.

REPRESSION OR EDUCATION?

One of the most vital questions in Britain at the present moment concerns the possible spread of venereal disease among the civil population through the demobilisation of the troops. Certain British Societies, in particular the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene, and the Women's Freedom League, are working hard to ventilate the whole problem, and are holding public and private meetings, to which questions and open discussion follow a short lecture or speech by some person of special experience and knowledge. Miss Picton-Turberville has at more than one such meeting spoken of her recent experiences of the campaign instituted in the United States against commercialised vice. Her account of the wave of enthusiasm which has swept over every State in that vast country almost takes one's breath away. The reform, however, seems open to objections of the gravest kind. Extinction by order of the Red Light districts and the removing of all prostitutes from the streets in every city and township has evidently succeeded in repressing the evil for the present. But what of the future? The measure was purely a war one. The purpose, to make the men "fit." With their characteristic quick intelligence, the Americans have seen that vice does not pay, therefore as the war was to be won, vice must go.

The method of getting rid of the prostitutes is simple. Streets are patrolled and houses raided by an enormous force of plain-clothes detectives. If in any case a man acknowledges that he has given money to the woman with whom he has been co-sorting, she is taken to a place of detention (not a prison), but he goes scot-free. The moral degradation to the man seems not to be thought of. What is done to the prostitutes is not clearly known. Apparently they are detained till they are free from infection. No means seems to be provided by which they can earn a living in any way, though the numbers must be far greater than the existing reformatories can deal with.

It has surprised many women in Britain to learn that the examination of prostitutes, which is regarded with such loathing and detestation by them, is the accepted rule in America. Another surprise is to learn that this work

of repressing vice is wholly in the hands of men. Women appear to know nothing about it. On the local committees which are appointed to see that the Federal Regulations are carried out, there seem to be no women, except in the case of New York and Chicago, where there is in each case one woman, but she is along among fourteen or fifteen men.

Not a few thinkers in Britain consider that the forcible repression of evil for a material purpose involves a deeper moral degradation than even the vice itself. The wrong done to the soul is worse than the bodily disease. But by others forcible measures are advocated, and it is therefore well that the American solution of the question should be carefully considered and its results watched.

One grand advance has been made in America which we in Britain would do well to copy. I allude to the splendid campaign in the schools against alcohol. It will hardly be believed that temperance propaganda is prohibited in the Government schools of London. As indulgence in alcohol is always the most powerful factor in stimulating sexual immorality, we may hope that on the wise lines of education of the young, America will actually achieve the moral reform which repressive measures can never ensure.

About a year and a half ago, the Provincial Equal Franchise Board of Saskatchewan, Canada, circularised the constituent societies of the British Dominion Women Citizens' Union, regarding a campaign among the women of the Empire. But we have heard nothing more about it, except that one great South African society approved of the idea. Nothing will help more effectually to set such a campaign on foot than for New Zealand women to keep us in Britain and in the other Dominions thoroughly informed of what they are doing.

The current number (February) of the "International Woman Suffrage News" contains a fuller account of the American reforms from the pen of Miss Picton-Turberville herself, giving other features of deep interest.

HARRIET C. NEWCOMB,
Hon. Sec. British Dominions Women Citizens' Union.
London, February, 1919.

Never assume that the motive of your antagonist is one whit less disinterested than your own.