

NORWAY.

THE EUGENIC MARRIAGE.

The new Norwegian marriage law came into force on January 1st, 1919. It may not represent the unadulterated eugenic ideal, but it is so great a step towards it as to be almost revolutionary. It contains eighty-one sections, but the following are some of the salient points. A man under 20 and a woman under 18 may not marry without the consent of the authorities. Birth and baptism certificates must be produced before the bans are published. Under certain conditions one or both of the contracting parties may be required to show that they have not been insane. Both must declare in writing that they are not suffering from epilepsy, leprosy, syphilis, or other venereal disease in an infectious form. In the other alternative, the subject of any of these diseases must prove that the other party to the marriage contract is cognisant of the fact, and that both parties have been instructed by a doctor as to the dangers of the disease in question. The doctor concerned is not to be tied by professional secrecy, and is bound to interfere if he knows that any one of these diseases is being concealed by either side. A written declaration must also be given by the candidates for marriage as to previous marriages and to children born to them out of wedlock. The marriage may be nullified if it is subsequently proved that insanity or any of the above diseases have been concealed, or if an incurable morbid condition, incompatible with married life, exists. Dissolution of the marriage may also be claimed if false declarations have been made or obstacles concealed. Again, if the woman has become pregnant by another man, or if the man has rendered another woman pregnant, and this has not been revealed, dissolution of the marriage may be claimed, whether the child of this irregular union be born before or after marriage; such a claim must be made within six months of the facts becoming known to the claimant. No woman may marry again till ten months after the termination of her previous marriage if she is pregnant at this period. Many other cases are defined as valid for the dissolution of marriage, and it is evident that henceforth in Norway it will often be difficult to marry in haste, and that the facilities for escaping from a hasty,

ill-judged marriage will prove to be numerous and varied.—“British Medical Journal.”

The demand to-day is for efficiency. This efficiency must be more than technical and professional. It must be an efficiency of character, of purpose and of social service. Alcohol certainly does not contribute to any one of these types of efficiency. Our institutions of higher education must exalt clean living, self-control, high-minded purpose.—Dr. George E. Vincent, President University of Minnesota.

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