

to vote. For this they are paid two hundred and fifty pounds a year, and receive allowances which make the total sum paid to them equal to three hundred pounds. Because they are obedient and give the Government no trouble they derive the full benefit of the Government support at election time, and are, of course, quite of opinion that Party Government is the finest possible thing. It is quite evident that

### The System is Wrong

What is wanted is an Executive elected by the representatives of the people, instead of a Cabinet chosen by the Premier. The longer this reform is delayed the more frequently shall we be reminded that the whole power of Government is passing into the hands of one man, that the democracy which we fondly hoped for is become an autocracy of a most dangerous type.

### A Painful Subject.

For years the Christchurch Police Surgeon has striven to win favour for a new C.D. Act which he has drafted at the request of the Government. He has even had the courage to address the National Council of Women on the subject. Fortunately, several of the delegates were sufficiently acquainted with the working and history of similar Acts to be able to put pertinent questions on the subject. These questions the doctor was unable to answer to the satisfaction of the Council. The National Council therefore declined to support a measure which would lead to an indecent system of espionage, and yet would not safe-guard the public health.

Failing with the Council of women, the Police Surgeon has sought for allies in an unexpected quarter, and has apparently succeeded. A Committee of Christchurch ministers has forwarded to the Government a number of recommendations taken from Dr. Symes' Bill. The recommendations are to the effect that venereal disease in either sex

is to be compulsorily reported under penalties, and that the use of drugs employed in these diseases should be presumptive evidence that the disease for which they are used is venereal. There is no reason to suppose that these ministers are actuated by anything but the best intentions. But it is a sorrowful thing to find them so thoughtlessly ignorant of the effect of their action. It is hard to believe that the public teachers of virtue could touch so delicate a subject without making themselves familiar with the experience of other lands. They may possibly explain that they are not advocating a C.D. Act, that they are only anxious for the public health. But a very little reflection would have shown them that the compulsory reporting of these diseases is only a prelude to segregation, and hateful and indecent surveillance, and State regulation of vice. There might be some shadow of excuse if it would conduce to the public health. But the experience of other countries shows that the

### Disease is Increased

by these regulations. The reason is not far to seek. Dread of detention and the shame of exposure prevent diseased persons from seeking proper treatment, and the community suffers in consequence. It is a well-known fact that in countries where the C.D. Acts are in operation there is a much larger proportion of these diseases than there is in countries free from those abominable regulations. So fully is this fact recognised that medical experts on the Continent are now advocating the establishment of "voluntary" dispensaries for the treatment of these diseases.

What our Unions and Women's Societies should do is, to insist upon the Hospital authorities doing their duty by setting aside wards wherein persons

who are suffering from the consequences of their own or other peoples' wrongdoing may receive proper treatment.

## NOTES AND COMMENTS.

OUR ILLUSTRATION. — Madame Hannah Korany is the lady who represented the Syrian women at the World's Fair, Chicago. She has devoted her life to the emancipation of her country women, and while often feeling despondent at results, she works on bravely. At the World's Fair she gave several lectures and addresses, and aroused great interest among the Americans in the Syrian women. She had to bear almost all the expense connected with the Exhibition, as well as having most of the trouble. One who has seen her describes her as "quite a pretty woman of an Oriental type, with large, liquid dark eyes, which can soften with sympathy, brighten with enthusiasm, or flash with indignation by turns. She has a soft face, beautiful dark hair, and is altogether very charming." She has acted as correspondent to several American newspapers, and has lectured in London in response to invitations from several Women's Societies.

MISS POWELL. — The "Echoes" from the World's Convention, and Temperance Congress, published on another page, is the last contribution that will be received from the pen of our delegate before she sails for New Zealand. She purposes leaving by the s.s. "Runic" (of the White Star Line) on November 24th, and hopes to be in Dunedin about the middle of January. To say that she represented our N.Z. Union creditably is but faint praise, and doubtless a very hearty welcome awaits her return to our shores.

REST COTTAGE. — At Miss Anna Gordon's request, we have pleasure in publishing the column entitled "Rest Cottage." Our hearts go out to our Chieftain's companion and friend of so many years, and we can well understand how she looks upon everything