

All over the world there is an active movement for the suppression of this traffic. Last year Chicago's "Red Lights" were put out." A segregated area that had "operated in defiance of the law, by permission of the executive government of the city, since the Chicago fire, are closed and literally padlocked." Active work is being done there, for this is not by any means the end of the traffic, though it is a good step forward.

Societies have been organised in many American cities by Dr. Prince A. Morrow, of New York, to enlighten the public against those plagues.

Mr John D. Rockefeller, junr., has been very active in investigating the White Slave Traffic in New York.

In Australia active steps are being taken in regard to venereal disease, and also the White Slave Traffic. Some medical men approached the National Council of Women in Melbourne, and asked their co-operation in putting "an end to the practice on the part of educated women of pretending not to know what everybody knew they did know," to which the Council, after full consideration, agreed.

Another they have taken up is to persuade the press to call syphilis by its right name, and to drop all ambiguous terms.

One point the ladies of Melbourne made very clear was that they would not contemplate any Contagious Diseases Acts or any treatment of women which differed from that of men.

It is well that women everywhere should realise the importance of this point, that measures that deal differently with men and women always increase the evils they are intended to remedy. In regard to different laws for men and women, it might be asked why solicitation by men should not be made a punishable offence, as it is now for women?

Of the conditions in our Dominion it is not so easy to gain information. Quite recently the "Dominion" stated that our laws on the subject of brothels required alteration, as at present we were governed by the English law, under which a disorderly house could not be reported if it did not contain more than one woman. That a well-known procurer who had to leave England had been living in Wellington, and had several houses at the same time, but as there was only one woman in each

the law could not touch him. Also, that several soft-drink shops in Auckland had been closed by the police, but that similar ones had been springing up in Wellington.

Of organised traffic there does not seem to be any evidence, but there appear to be some cases of attempted procuration.

A girl answered an advertisement for a lady-help, and on the train en route for the situation met a young man friend, who told her that she was going to a brothel.

During license days there was a case in Invercargill of a woman meeting strange girls from the country, taking them to an hotel, then to her house, one at least being ruined.

Another: Two girls arrived in one of our large towns, engaged a cab, and told the driver to take them to a boarding-house. They did not like the appearance of the house at which he stopped, and still less that of the woman who opened the door, so went back to the cab, told the man to drive them to a respectable house, or they would report him. On inquiry later, they found that the place was a brothel.

At a meeting held in the Lyceum Theatre just prior to the passing of the "White Slave Traffic Bill" last year, the chairman, the Rev. J. C. Pattenbury, said that he had been told by those qualified to express an opinion that the traffic had never been worse than at the present moment.

The Bishop of London, speaking at the same meeting, said: "He did not believe that one person in ten knew how this awful traffic had spread all over the world. It was computed that from one great city alone 5000 girls were obtained every year. Did the public realise that every railway station was watched, that every steamboat was watched, that a body of men existed for nothing else but to carry on this traffic—a perfectly well-paid, organised traffic—throughout the world. If they were going to defeat it they must have the hosts of God as carefully organised and as energetic as were their enemies."

What is needed is a *strong determined public opinion*, that will demand that this traffic *shall cease*. To help to create that is our aim, and we believe it cannot be done until women all over the world realise what a terrible thing this traffic is. There are still many good Christian

women who think it is better not to speak of these things—it exists, but it is better to cover it up—hide it in silence. As one said recently, "Don't tell me; it makes me feel sick." Make you feel sick! I hope it does! Woman, it is your own *sister* who is undergoing this torture, Won't you help to release her? No; many of you will not—not till it is the sister round whom you have clasped your arms, who has been part of your life. And then you will wear out your life in a vain attempt, on a blank impenetrable silence, as thousands of mothers and sisters are doing now.

All over the world women are rising, and in various ways demanding the remedying of grievous wrongs, but for nothing is the demand so strong and urgent as for the suppression of this traffic. Will you take your part? Do something, however small, to forward this cause.

J.F.

THE CHILDREN ARE BEING TAUGHT BY SOMEBODY.

The greatest mistake we are all making is the assumption that if we, the teachers, parents, and friends of the children, are not imparting the necessary instruction on important matters usually avoided, then no instruction is being received. Whereas, the real condition is that "the air is full of it!" No child, no boy at least, can escape it. The child does not wait for this instruction as he does for other learning. He finds it in the wrong place, from the wrong teacher. As evidence of this, just inspect the walls and doors. Most children learn very young that certain subjects are never taught in places where instruction in other subjects is given. Many greatly fear that the child will "know too much," and therefore meet his perfectly innocent questions with all sorts of lies and evasions. Let us remember that from impure and forbidden sources some teaching is certain to come to most children; and therefore, by our tactful, refined, and frank enlightenment of necessary truth will come the protecting and guarding armour for the young life, which is so needed to maintain purity. While we hesitate, boys and girls, young men and women, are going to destruction.