

VICTORY OVER VICE IN THE AMERICAN ARMY.

In every great army the question of disease resulting from sexual vice is of serious importance, if only from the point of view of effectiveness. It is immensely to the credit of the Surgeon-General of our Army, of General Pershing, and of the Commission on Training Camp Activities, that in this war they have fought the evil fairly and squarely. In the face of scepticism they have believed in and enforced prohibition, repression, education, and punishment as opposed to toleration, inspection, and regulation. The results, as pointed out by Mr Raymond B. Fosdick, in an article in the "New Republic," have been excellent. In this country there was no open opposition; the difficulties to be contended with were chiefly those relating to men on leave of absence and the dangers of large cities. The vicinity of a camp was kept safe by stern and rigorous authority, the measures were thorough, and without parallel in any other country, says Mr Fosdick. But in France for generations the view has obtained that prohibition was impossible, that the only alleviation was through license of houses and constant inspection of registered inmates. "So sincerely did they hold this belief that prostitution facilities for soldiers were officially offered to our high command."

General Pershing would have none of this. He issued the strictest orders to his officers; he even told his commanders that their reports and statistics on this subject would be used as "a basis in determining the commander's efficiency and the suitability of his continuing in command." One commander accepted the offer to take over a licensed house for American use; General Pershing at once put it "out of bounds," and removed the commander. An order urging sexual continence and the maintenance of high moral standards of living was followed by search for brothels, the stationing of military police to refuse access to whole districts which had been put out of bounds, the enforcing of scientific treatment of men who had been exposed, punishment for all who evaded treatment or disobeyed prohibitory regulations.

Even the French scepticism was shaken by the results. In one base

port where the houses had been open for three months and were then closed for three months, the rate of diseased cases fell from sixteen to two per thousand men. The total per cent. of sexual disease in our army, here and overseas, has been almost negligible as compared with other army records. In France three 1000 bed hospitals had been prepared for venereal patients; it was expected that they would be filled by a certain date in accordance with the statistics of past experience. **They were not used at all.** Instead, in that time three hundred cases only were treated, mostly in regimental and field infirmaries. In one body of 7401 men only one case of venereal disease developed in seven weeks.

General Pershing, in a letter to Lord Milner, has recorded his conviction that "abolition as distinguished from regulation is the only effective mode of combating this age-long evil." And in urging co-operation between the Governments to this end, he speaks feelingly of "the menace to the young manhood in the army forces," and urges military and civil co-operation on the common ground of humanity and in accordance with the well-considered conclusions of the best scientific minds.

Mr Fosdick pays a high tribute to General Pershing and our military authorities generally when he says: "When the history of America's participation in the great war comes to be written, no finer achievement will be recorded to her credit than the unending battle against sex indulgence and venereal disease in the army.—Exchange.

In startling contrast to the above stands out the incompetence of our military authorities in dealing with this menace.—Editor "White Ribbon."

"We kneel, and all around us seems to lower;

We rise, and all the distant and the near

Stand out in outline brave and clear;

We kneel, how weak; we rise, how full of power!

Why, therefore, should we do ourselves this wrong,

Or others, that we are not always strong;

That we should ever weak or helpless be,

When with us in prayer, and power and suffrance dwell with Thee?"

UNITY.

Madame Avril De Ste-Croix, of France, who is President of the International Society for the Suppression of the White Slave Traffic, and one of Europe's most eminent women, has just paid a flying visit to Canada in the interests of Social Hygiene. While in Toronto she delivered a touching message from the women of France to the women of Canada, appealing particularly for unity of action in order to overcome the effects of war. Unity of all allied women was indeed the key-note of her address, and the dependence of French women upon the united action of all their women allies was repeatedly emphasized.

"In France," said Madame Avril, "women refuse to recognise differences amongst themselves—of creed, class or political opinion; we are all French women bound together for France, to repair the moral and physical and social ruins brought upon us by the barbarism of Germany. Women of the old Catholic families, Protestant and Hebrews, and the working women of our country all stand together for reconstruction, as they have done in the past four years for sacrifice."—"Woman's Century."

WHO IS THE PATRIOT?

Not he whose view is bounded by the soil,

Not he whose narrow heart can only shrine

The land—the people that he called **Mine;**

Not he who to set up his land on high
Will make whole nations bleed, whole nations die;

Not he, who calling that land's right his pride,

Trampled the right of all the world beside.

No! He it is, the just the generous soul!

Who owneth brotherhood with either Pole;

Holds Freedom's banner o'er the earth unfurled,

And stands, the guardian patriot of a world.

—Selected.

LOVE.

Love is the golden law, sunnily dear;
Justice, the silver law, cold, calm,
and clear;

Anger, the iron law, harshly severe.

Anger's an iron lance, mighty to slay;
Justice, a silver scale, faultless alway;
Love is a golden ring, joining for aye!