

# The White Ribbon

FOR GOD AND HOME AND HUMANITY

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## GOVERNMENT BY REGULATION.

We hear a great deal about the cost of Parliament, and some members exercise their brains by calculating its cost per hour, and it is something staggering. Still, we pay it more or less cheerfully, and console ourselves by the thought that we are governed by the representatives whom we elect by our votes.

Lately what with commissions of experts, and regulations approved by Cabinet, it seems to us that as these regulations have the force of law it is great waste to elect and pay a Parliament just for a pretence. If we are going to be governed by "Regulations" what need of the great cost of elections and sessions to make laws which seemingly are not necessary. Just recently the Board of Health have issued regulations for the compulsory examination and treatment of V.D. Now this provision has never yet been passed by Parliament; in fact it was withdrawn from the Social Hygiene Bill by the late Prime Minister at the urgent protest of the women of this Dominion. Here, then, is a provision which no Government dares to put through the House, which M.P.'s know their women constituents oppose, and it is enforced by "regulation."

In Parliament women have representation and this provision has not passed our representatives. It is brought in "through the back door." What guarantee have we that many other equally obnoxious "regula-

tions" may not be similarly inflicted upon us.

So far vaccination is not compulsory, but if we calmly sit down and allow this iniquitous "government by regulation," the next thing will be that vaccination will be made compulsory.

"Eternal Vigilance is the price of Liberty." We are on the eve of an election; let women wake up and insist that they be governed by the representatives whom they elect, not by Commissions or Boards who are not responsible to the electors for their actions. Later on we propose to deal with these regulations. Just now we only wish to arouse our readers to the danger of allowing the Government of this Country to be in any other hands than those of the People's Representatives.

A fortnight ago we sent a letter to the Minister for Health, but so far have received no reply. The following is the text of the letter:—

On behalf of the White Ribbon women of this Dominion, I enter a most emphatic protest against the compulsory measures in the treatment of V.D. being adopted by "Regulation." A measure so important, which places the honor of every woman in the hands of a Health Director, should not be enforced unless it be passed by the "Representatives of this people in Parliament assembled." As the Regulations are not too clear, may I ask you for further enlightenment.

(1). What constitutes a "reasonable cause to believe?"

(2). In the event of an innocent woman having to submit to this examination, does the regulation shelter the Dr. from a prosecution for indecent assault?

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER.

(Received just after we went to press last month).

Box 16, Dunedin,  
May 20th.

My dear Comrades,

I have been to the Alliance Convention in Wellington, which in my judgment was one of the best, though we sadly missed the presence and voice of our loved Leader Rev. John Dawson, and veterans like the Revs. Comrie and Isitt, but we rejoiced in such reinforcements as Mr W. French, Mr Poole, Mr Harry Holmes and Rev. Lionel Fletcher. It was a pleasant surprise to meet Mr French from California, I last saw him in San Francisco when he royally entertained Miss Henderson and me at lunch, afterwards showing us some of the Cities' sights, and one week-end he took us to the Sandford University and Campus, where we had the privilege of seeing the wonderfully beautiful Sandford Church. Mr Harry Holmes was one of the speakers at the World's Jubilee Convention in Medinah Temple, and it seemed but a week or so since we were jubilating there, and now we were renewing our friendship at the Antipodes. Rev. Fletcher's inspiring address,