

sand escape for every one who gets caught, they are prepared to take the infinitesimal risk of discovery. Now, who is to inform against the doctor if he fails to notify? Will the patient inform? If not, who is to do it? Doctors have declared that they will not notify cases of Venereal Disease that come to them for treatment. One doctor remarked, "If I am fined, the patient will pay the fine." Precisely, a wealthy patient would pay the fine sooner than risk publicity. Thus we have class legislation. The wealthy would escape, the poor and friendless would alone be notified.

If a patient refuses to continue treatment he must be compelled. Who is to compel? Why, in the last resource he would fall into the hands of the police. Flener, who studied this subject thoroughly in all European countries, is entirely opposed to any system of compulsion, as he says: "It continues the hurtful association of venereal disease with the police, which must be completely uprooted if persons ill of Venereal Disease are to seek treatment as readily as those with measles or mumps."

We must always bear in mind that Venereal Disease is the result of promiscuous sexual intercourse. Education is the only hope of eradicating it, and that is a slow process. Scientific sex instruction should be given in our schools. To combat the disease, free, voluntary, confidential treatment is urged. In Sydney, where this treatment is obtainable, sufferers go in large numbers to the clinics, while in Victoria, where they are compelled to continue treatment, comparatively few seek aid in the early stages of the disease. If the Government is in earnest in combating these diseases, let them establish more of these clinics; let them raise the age of consent, and protect both sexes.

We are in accord with the opinions expressed by the British Medical Women's Federation in their pronouncement upon this question as follows:—

"In concluding, we desire once more to emphasise our conviction of the necessity of the more serious consideration of the whole problem and the avoidance of hasty and panic legislation. The problem is one of far-reaching complexity; its consideration involves many complicated social ques-

tions, the reformation of social conditions, and of the moral habits of society. A remedy which does not include consideration of these will fall in its attempt, and probably draw new social evils in its train."

We urge that free, secret, efficient treatment for all patients suffering from venereal disease should be provided by the State, and that every area should immediately take steps to provide adequate treatment, and we reiterate the importance of avoiding any legislation that may have the effect of deterring patients from seeking advice at the earliest possible moment.

We are, yours very faithfully,

RACHEL DON,

President;

PRISCA CRABB,

Vice-President;

CHRISTINA HENDERSON,

Corresponding Secretary;

NELLIE BENDELY,

Treasurer;

NELLIE PERYMAN,

Editor "White Ribbon."

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EMPIRE MEMORIAL HOSTEL FOR OUR MERCHANT SEAMEN.

(To the Editor, White Ribbon.)

Dear Madam,—May I, through your pages tell all those who have helped to raise funds for the Memorial Hostel (to be erected in the Port of London as the Empire's tribute to her Merchant Seamen) exactly the position of the scheme at the present time.

The original building, which was estimated in 1919 to cost £55,000 will at present prices cost £134,000. It has therefore been necessary to have further plans prepared, and at a meeting of the Committee held in January, 1921, these were submitted and approved, and the building is to be commenced about July (by which time the site will be cleared.) The new scheme will cost £55,000, and is a very fine structure, but will contain 220 cubicles instead of 420, although it has been arranged that a further 200 may be easily added later, at a cost of £20,000. £100,000 has been raised, and to complete the building as now planned, defray cost of site, furnishing and incidental expenses, as well as provide endowment, we still require £15,000.

I earnestly ask all those who have the welfare of our seamen at heart to help in this final effort in order that all the money needed may be raised before the foundation stone is laid in July. I shall gratefully receive and acknowledge any contribution addressed to me at Wakefield House, 32 Cheapside, London, E.C.2.

Yours very truly,

BEATRICE DIMSDALE,

President.

Wakefield House,

32 Cheapside, London, E.C.,

4th April, 1921.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

The following payments have been received since last report.—

New Zealand Fund.

North-East Valley, £2.

Organising Fund.

Per Miss Earnshaw, £2 and £1; Picton, £1.

NELLIE BENDELY,

N.Z. Treasurer.

Auckland, 10th August, 1921.

The "White Ribbon" can be ordered from Mrs Peryman, Carterton. Subscription, 3/6 per annum, post free.