

We are aware that upon some of the questions which have been raised on the subject of marriage we are speaking with less decision than may be expected, and that there are questions with regard to which we fail altogether to give such guidance as in some parts of our Communion is gravely needed. In so far as we have thus failed, it must be remembered that the Conference is gathered from Churches differing not only in the conditions under which they have to deal with these questions, but also in the formal Canons, diocesan, provincial, or general, by which their action is ruled. In view of this fact we have come to the conclusion that these questions must be dealt with separately in the several Churches of our Communion. We have on this ground left without an adequate or general declaration of judgment the difficulty which has been constituted for the Church of England by recent legislation concerning marriage with a deceased wife's sister.

A further evil with which we have had to deal is of such a kind that it cannot be spoken of without repugnance. No one who values the purity of home life can contemplate without grave misgiving the existence of an evil which jeopardises that purity; no one who treasures the Christian ideal of marriage can condone the existence of habits which subvert some of the essential elements of that ideal. In view of the figures and facts which have been set before us, we cannot doubt that there is a widespread prevalence amongst our peoples of the practice of resorting to artificial means for the avoidance or prevention of child-bearing. We have spoken of these practices and endeavoured to characterise them as they deserve, not only in their results, but in themselves; and we would appeal to the members of our own Churches to exert the whole force of their Christian character in condemnation of them.*

*Resolutions 37-43.